

**SERIES TITLE:** Servant King

**PART NINE:** SUFFERING

**TEXT:** MARK 8:31-9:1

### **INTRODUCTION TO STUDY**

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

### **CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE**

Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ now shifts to confusion. For the first time, Jesus describes his impending suffering and death in detail. In the wake of the disciples’ shock and denial, he further challenges them by declaring that all who follow him must lose their lives as well.

### **FOCUS QUESTION**

How do you think the average American views suffering and why?

### **EXAMINATION**

8:31-33

- What four things does Jesus prophesy about himself here?
- Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus?
- Do we have any hint that the other disciples reacted similarly to Peter?
- Why did Jesus react so strongly?

8:34-38

- Based on these verses, what is involved in being a follower of Christ?
- When Jesus refers to taking up the cross, would the disciples have any reason to link that to Jesus’ prediction about his death? Why or why not?
- What does Jesus mean here when he says deny yourself?

9:1

- What do you think Jesus is referring to here and why?

## **EXPLORATION**

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20
- Isaiah 53
- Luke 14:25-33
- Acts 2:22-33
- Philippians 2:5-11

## **APPLICATION**

- React to this statement. “If the settled state of your heart is that you don’t treasure Jesus and what he did for you on the cross, if you do not prize him above everything else, you are in fact ashamed of him.”
- How does the cross inform your understanding of suffering?
- In what way can God use suffering to bring about growth in your life?
- Can you give any examples of how God has done that?
- Do you think it is important to let people know that there is a cost to following Jesus? Why or why not?

## **SUMMATION**

- Fact: What are key truths that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?