

Who Do You Say I Am?

June 1, 2014

Mark 8:27-9:1-13

In Jesus, we have continuous opportunities for encountering Him, but we have to be open to the fresh ways He chooses to reveal Himself.

Misconceptions of the Messiah

- The Israelites longed for the coming of the Messiah—it represented a wide range of hopes and dreams in Israel
- The Israelites had an expectation of how the Messiah would come and what He would be like—when He showed up in a different way, many missed Him.
- Their perceived revelation of the Messiah was one of glory, victory and divine power
- He would be a great king like David and would reign on an earthly throne
- His glory would be for here and now to fix their present situation
- He would be a military leader like David and would overthrow and kill their Roman oppressors
- “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”
- He would raise Israel back into prominence among the nations
- In their minds, He would never submit, surrender or suffer
- The disciples knew He was the promised King and Deliverer, but they had the same perception of the kind of king He was.

Truth of the Messiah

- Jesus presents them with a true revelation of the Messiah as a different king—conquering sin and freeing people from its grasp
- Jesus tells the disciples that He will suffer, be rejected and be killed—the disciples can’t handle this

Submit

- He submitted to the plan of the Father and not the expectation of the Jews
- *“By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.” (John 5:30 NIV)*
- He submitted Himself as a servant to others—healing, teaching, discipling
- *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NIV)*

Surrender

- Even Jesus denied Himself (to lose sight of yourself and your own interests in order to discover and secure your true self and God's interests)
- John 15:13 (AMP) – Jesus said, *“No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends.”*
- Death on a cross was a form of execution used by Rome for dangerous criminals. Carrying it signified submission to Rome's power—Jesus knew this because He came to submit.
- In the garden: *“Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”* Luke 22:42 (NLT)

Suffer

Isaiah 53:3-5 – *“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

- If Jesus hadn't have suffered and died, we would have died in our sins
- They couldn't see the suffering Messiah. If they can't see Him this way, they can't live in the power of His suffering.

New Revelations

“Who am I?”

- The question was not, “Who do you need me to be right now?” but “Who am I right now?”
- He was inviting them into a revelation of who He truly was—not as they perceived, not their protected image of Him
- Disciples had to look beyond their expectations to see Him.
- He stood before them, presenting Himself in the way that would change their lives for all eternity if they grasped the revelation, but their preconceived, earthly thinking kept this revelation hidden.

There are new encounters with the Father coming to us—if we don't keep our eyes open to fresh revelation, we could miss Him

- Sometimes we are sure God is going to move or answer one way and when He does it another way we miss it because it looked different.
- Past revelations can unknowingly restrict us from seeing Him in the NOW revelation that He is wanting to present to us.

Isaiah 43:19 (AMP) – *“Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it?”*

Abraham and Sarah

- Abraham and Sarah missed a revelation of how God was revealing Himself
- They received a promise of a son and they waited...
- When their son didn't come according to their expectations, they took matters into their own hands
- Ishmael was born from a slave woman and not out of the covenant of marriage or a covenant with God
- The revelation of the Lord that awaited them was as a Faithful Keeper, but they initially missed it because they were seeing from a human perspective

Nicodemus

- Pharisee and member of Jewish council
- He had weak faith and timidity, thus visiting Jesus at night
- He believed in Jesus' mission, but believed Him to be inspired after the OT prophets
- The revelation of the Lord that awaits him in this moment is as the Creator of a New Spirit
- Nicodemus was a teacher of spiritual things, yet his human thinking was keeping him from receiving this new revelation
- 8:33 in NLT – “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's”
- Nicodemus was moved by his encounter with Jesus because he kept an open heart—he was later found to stand up and defend Jesus before the Sanhedrin and later provided spices for Jesus' embalming, which was a public profession of following Christ

Personal

- I saw anxiety as an attack and did warfare over myself.
- I'm learning He is the God of Redemption—He's redeeming years of my life
- He's the God of Journey – Mark 8:2-3: He cares about the journey we are on in Him and feeds us so we won't faint
- 2 Timothy 1:12 (AMP) – “...for I know (perceive, have knowledge of, and am acquainted with) Him Whom I have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on), and I am [positively] persuaded that He is able to guard and keep that which has been entrusted to me and which I have committed [to Him]...”

How to stay open to new revelation

Keep your heart open to Him

- Remain teachable
- Remove religious activity and just be with Him
- Jeremiah 29:13 – “You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with ALL your heart.”

- Revelation comes from encounter

Transfiguration encounter

- A veil is momentarily lifted and they see Jesus as He always has been
- They see Him in His glorious body that He had in heaven and will have again soon—their eyes are being opened
- When He is “suddenly” (9:8) back in His ordinary state the disciples have to choose—live by the revelation they just received or live by sight of how things appear right now—revelation or sight.

Keep your mind open to Him

- Ask for discernment
- Jeremiah 33:3 (MSG) – *“Call to Me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.”*

Keep your eyes open to Him

- Peter could receive and explain the upper room encounter in Acts 2 because he learned to live with his eyes open—he received the new revelation and then explained it to the crowd.
- This was the birth of a new era
- He learned to live in a place of expectancy, not expectation