

THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Nine~

“I Was Blind, Now I See”

Mark 8:22-30



Life Groups

Welcome back to UPC’s study of the book of Mark entitled “The Surprising Jesus.” Whether you work through these studies on your own, with a friend, or with a UPC Life Group, they will help you develop a HEAD that enjoys God’s truth, a HEART of love for God and neighbor, and HANDS eager to serve the King.

A reminder... This weekly Bible study is connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. It includes a “Look Back” section to help you reflect on last Sunday’s sermon, and a “Look Up” section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

LOOK BACK – Mark 8:1-21

Mark continues telling us about the amazing things Jesus did to demonstrate His power and compassion. A few pages back Mark had recounted Jesus’ feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:32-44). Now he reports a similar miraculous feeding, and shows us its spiritual implications.

a) Compare Mark 8:1-10 with 6:32-44. List all the similarities and differences you find in these two miracles.

b) What attributes and character traits does Jesus reveal by feeding the crowd of 4,000 (and remember that this is just the number of *men* that were present)?

c) Do you find anything ironic in verse 11?

d) Why do you think Jesus refused to give the Pharisees a sign of His identity (verse 12)?

- e) After reading verses 14-21, do you think you would have been less clueless than the disciples? Why or why not?

LOOK UP – Mark 8:22-30

When Jesus was here on earth, many blind people were the recipients of his healing touch. This week's passage tells us about one such man, and through his story we again find ourselves face to face with the question: Who is Jesus?

Mark 8:22-26 – Jesus Gives Sight to a Blind Man

- a) Compare and contrast this healing with that recorded in Mark 7:31-37. What are the similarities and differences?

- b) Do you see any connection between what has just preceded (verses 14-21) and the healing of the blind man?

- c) Why do you think Jesus took the blind man outside the village before He healed him (verse 23)?

- d) Does it surprise you that the healing took place not instantaneously (as in most other healings) but in stages? What might Jesus be communicating to us through this two-step miracle?

Mark 8:27-30 – Jesus Gives Sight to His Disciples

- a) If Jesus is God, why did He need to ask His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" (verse 27)

b) Matthew records a somewhat longer conversation between Jesus and Peter than what we have in Mark 8:29. After Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ, what does Matthew tell us Jesus said to Peter (Matthew 16:17)?

c) Look again at Matthew 16:17. What is the implication of that verse for every human being?

d) What must happen before someone can understand and respond to the truth about Jesus Christ? (Hint: see 1 Corinthians 1:12-14)

e) Why did Jesus warn His disciples not to tell anyone about Him (verse 30)?

LOOK IN – Reflect

a) If you are studying Mark in a small group, take a few minutes and share your spiritual story with your fellow group members. When and how did you discover the truth about Jesus Christ?

b) Which is the more important question: "Who do people say I am?" or "Who do you say I am?"? Why?

LOOK OUT – Apply

A very effective evangelistic question to ask someone is, "To you, who is Jesus?" It opens the door for you to share how Jesus has changed your life. Endeavor to ask a friend, neighbor, or co-worker that question this week. You might be surprised to hear their answer!