

When the Map Doesn't Match the Mission
Upside Down Kingdom: The Gospel According to Mark

July 27, 2025

Notes

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read Mark 8:1-10.

What do you learn about the people in the crowd from these verses? What does Jesus know about them and how does He respond to their situation?

How has Jesus met you in your times of need? In what ways has He provided for you? What confidence does that give you for the future?

2. Read Mark 8:11-13.

What did the Pharisees want from Jesus? Why weren't the things Jesus had already done enough for them?

How has Jesus proven Himself faithful in your life? How does past evidence of His faithfulness encourage you to trust Him more deeply? What step of faith might He be calling you to take this week?

3. Read Mark 8:14-21.

The disciples have seen Jesus provide more than enough, over and over. But still they doubt. In what circumstances do you find yourself doubting His goodness and His love? Why is that?

4. Read Mark 8:22-26.

In what way is this story of Jesus' healing different from others? What does this story tell you about the ability to see clearly? How have you experienced increasing clarity as you lean in to Jesus and trust His process in your life?

5. Read Mark 8:27-33.

Jesus asks you the same question He asked the disciples. Who do you say that He is?

Peter's knowledge of who Jesus is didn't align with his expectation of what Jesus would do. In what ways have you experienced this same sort of conflict? How do you respond when His plan for you doesn't line up with your desires?

6. Read Mark 8:34-9:1.

There is a difference between knowing about Jesus and following Him. What does it require to be a follower of Jesus? What does that look like in your life, every day? In what area do you need to follow Him more consistently? What might that cost you?