

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

In your own words, summarize the main idea from last week's passage (8:1-30)

Read Mark 8:31-9:13. Share 2-3 observations of what you see in the passage and then answer some or all of the following questions:

Why does Jesus suddenly become explicit about his death after Peter correctly identifies him as the Christ (Messiah)?

Why does Peter rebuke Jesus? Why does he do it privately?

Why does Jesus respond so forcefully to Peter?

What if Jesus had listened to Peter? Why does it matter that Jesus doesn't always do what we want but instead conforms us to his will?

In a First Century context how would people have heard the call to "take up his cross"? How do you think people reacted to Jesus using this language?

What does this imply about the cost of following Jesus?

Where are you trying to "save your life" or "gain the world"? How might Jesus be calling you to surrender more fully to his Kingdom?

When and what is "the Kingdom of God come in power"?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-19. What insight does this provide?

Why does the Transfiguration immediately follow Jesus' prediction of his death?

Why are Moses and Elijah present?

What is their significance?

What relationship do they have with Jesus?

How do Exodus 24:15-17 & 1Kings 19:11-13 inform our reading?

What is the significance of Malachi 3:1-2 for this story?

How do God's words compare with what was spoken at the baptism of Jesus? How are these two events connected?

Why didn't the disciples understand what "rising from the dead" meant?

Read Malachi 4:4-6. What is the role of Elijah in the coming of the Kingdom?

What do the disciples not understand about the nature of the Kingdom that makes them unable to accept Jesus' cross and its implications for them?

What does God want you to understand about the nature of the Kingdom and its implications for your life?

Where do you need to take the Father's words: "listen to him" more seriously and apply the teachings of Jesus to your life?

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