



ST. FRANCIS
IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Tuesday Bible Study

Week 9

Mark 8:27-9:29

November 1, 2022

1. Jesus was a different type of Messiah than people were expecting. Have you ever been expecting one thing and gotten something very different? What was the experience like?
 - a. Have you ever had expectations about God that were challenged or changed by an encounter with reality? What was the experience like?
 - b. Does your own experience of expectations shape how you understand Peter's reaction to Jesus in Mark 8:32?
2. Bonus: Do you think there is a relationship between Peter's interaction with Jesus in Mark 8:33 and the disciples not understanding about the loaves earlier in Mark? What is it they are missing? What don't they understand in each case?
3. In Mark 8:25 Jesus says "He who wants to save his life will lose it..." The word translated here as "life" is *psyche* and relates to the deepest part of the self, not just the physical body. Does this change how you hear this passage?

4. How do you see people define the deep parts of themselves? What, to you, is a “self”? What are some ways that you see people present, express, or define themselves?
 - a. Does Jesus challenge us to think about the “self” differently? If so, how?

5. In Mark 9:5 Peter says “It is good for us to be here...” Why do you think he says this? What is good? Is he being foolish, or is he being perceptive? What makes you think this?

6. The suffering of the Son of Man and the disciples becomes a key theme in this section of Mark and going forward. How does our culture talk and think about suffering?
 - a. How is this different from how suffering is presented and talked about by Jesus?

 - b. How can we have a Christian understating of the role of suffering that doesn’t dismiss or justify the suffering of others?

7. Have you struggled with faith like the father of the possessed boy? Have you prayed “help my unbelief,” and if so what happens when you do (Mark 9:24)?