

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ What is so radical about Jesus' call to the disciples and the crowd in Mark 8:34-9:1?

- ❖ In the upside down kingdom, the last are first, the least are greatest (Luke 9:23-27, Matthew 5, Philippians 2:3-11). How are you living this out in your life? Are you quick to serve joyfully in the ways Jesus has called us to?

- ❖ Have you ever thought of the fact that if your mind is on things of the world, you are setting your mind on Satan's kingdom and not the eternal Kingdom of God? If this is true, what is at stake when I'm living to satisfy my flesh?

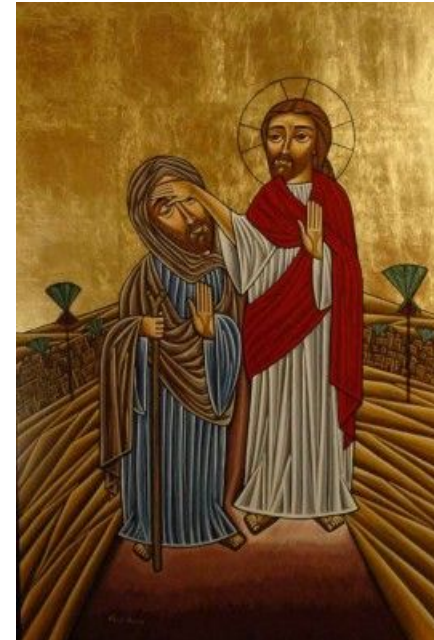
- ❖ Why is the soul so much more important than the body? (2Corinthians 4:16, Matthew 10:28, Hebrews 10:34-39)

- ❖ What areas of your life are you struggling to see or hear God? What are some things that blind us and deafen us?

Looking Forward: Mark 9:2-13

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 8:14-9:1

Only Jesus Can Heal the Blindness of a Hard Heart

Looking Back: Mark 7:31-8:21

What are the 3 levels of sight that the blind man experiences?

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Loving God with your actions

- ❑ In the upside down kingdom, we don't fight sin by "doing better" "fighting harder", it's about surrendering to Jesus (upside down kingdom) 2 Corinthians 10:1-7. This week choose a sin you've been struggling with (worry, anger, gossip, discontentment) and fight by surrender modeled in this 2Corinthians passage. Pick someone you trust and confess to them and ask them to pray for you to have victory over it through Christ.
- ❑ Why does what we think of Christ matter? Write down 10 things that you know are true about Jesus. Ask someone this week what they think of Jesus.
- ❑ When Jesus asks, "Who do you say I am?" What is your response? This week, take some time to journal on or talk with someone about your response to this question.
 - ❑ Think about what the words really mean. We like to put titles down (i.e Lord, Savior, etc.) but what do those really mean? What traits of Jesus are "easy" to believe? Which are more difficult?

Loving God with your heart

- ❑ Spend 10 minutes praying and asking God to show you your blindness. Consider your life and what you do every day. Do you see any areas that you have blinded yourself to your sin?
- ❑ Make a list of those areas you have blinded yourself to your sin, spend time in confession, repentance and prayer.

- ❑ Think of the places in scripture where you have read what it says and been very uncomfortable with what's there - how can you lean in and reconcile what you don't "like" with the truth of who God is?
- ❑ Write a paragraph of thanks to Jesus for a sin He helped you have victory over.

Loving God with your mind

Want to look deeper? Did you know...

- ❖ **Leaven** is referred to in Matthew 16:6, 1Corinthians 5:6. Used in the New Testament mainly as a symbol of evil influence that, if allowed to remain, can corrupt the body of believers.
- ❖ The word "**generation**" used in Mark 7:12 and Mark 8:38 is the word "genea" and is used to describe a race, descent, offspring. In this case it seems to be referring to the Hebrews.
- ❖ **Bethsaida** means "house of fish". Jesus talks about Bethsaida in Matthew 11:20-24.
- ❖ **Taste and see** is used in Psalm 34:1,8 and Hebrews 2:9.

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ Spiritual blindness - Matthew 13:13-16, Isaiah 6:9-10, John 9:39-41
- ❑ Seeing God - Psalm 34:8, Matthew 5:8, John 14:8-11
- ❑ Taste and See - Psalm 34:1, 8, Hebrews 2:9
- ❑ Jesus foretells his death - Matthew 16:21-23, Matthew 17:22
- ❑ Profit/Loss, Gain, Reward - Luke 9:25, Matthew 16:26, Matthew 5:46, Luke 6:35, Philippians 3:7-21
- ❑ Matthew 16:13-28