

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 19: Mark 8:22-38

We come to a turning point in the gospel. Some consider 8:22-26 to be the actual change in direction, while others suggest that this first episode is only a hinge section which hints at the next part of the book.

Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida (vv. 22-26)

- This healing has similarities to that of 7:31-37
- This is the only time that Jesus:
 - Questions someone about the progress of their healing
 - The healing occurs in stages

What can explain why the healing takes place in two stages?

A conversation about Jesus' true identity (vv. 27-30)

- Caesarea Philippi is about 25 miles north of Bethsaida
- The opinions of Jesus' identity reflect what was said in 6:14-15
- Jesus doesn't refute the title of Messiah, but he restricts the disciples from telling others about Him in this way

Why would Jesus not want others to know Him as the Messiah?

Matt. 16:13-16
Luke 9:18-21

Jesus predicts His death (vv. 31-33)

- This is the first time Jesus explains His ultimate mission clearly
- Jesus pivots from "Messiah" to "Son of Man"

What is Peter's problem with this and why does Jesus rebuke Him?

Matt. 16:21-23
Luke 9:22

Take up your cross (vv. 34-38)

- These are likely a collection of well-known sayings in Jesus' ministry
- Note that Jesus demands followship after Him, not just His teachings

What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?

Matt. 16:24-27
Luke 9:23-26

How has the idea of being ashamed of the gospel shifted from Jesus' day to ours?