

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

5-9 Dec 2011

LESSON 10 - GOD'S SERVANT IS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

What was your nickname in school? How did you get it?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: The question of Jesus' identity is important to Mark's Gospel. Since Mark was writing to the Gentile audience, particularly those in Rome, many people had heard rumors about Jesus. . He seems to be trying to bring all the controversy to the surface to let people decide for themselves. The word "Christ" is from the Greek for the Hebrew Meshiah (Messiah) meaning anointed one. There is little evidence of any Jew in pre-Christian times considering a suffering Messiah. "In rabbinic circles the students usually asked the questions, and the teacher provided the answers. That Jesus here asked the question is just one of many indications that he was not a typical rabbi." ¹

Read Mark 8:27-30, 3:21-22; 4:41; 6:3, 14-15

1. Jesus asked the disciples two questions? What was the first one?
2. Who did people say Jesus was?
3. What was the second question?
4. What was the significance difference between the two questions?
5. Peter was acting as the spokesman. What do we learn from his answers?
6. How did the disciples come to this conclusion? Matt 16:17-19
7. Why was it important that the disciples recognize Jesus as the Christ at this time?
8. How does Jesus compare to the messiah that the Jews were looking for at the time?
9. What kind of messiah are people looking for today? Who do they say Jesus is today?
10. How can someone understand the significance of Christ in their life today?
11. What difference does it make if someone doesn't see Jesus as "the Christ"? (See Holbrook article)

APPLICATION

- How would the people around you (family, friends, coworkers, etc.) answer the first question? What can you do to help them know the truth?
- How do you answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"

C.S. Lewis wrote: It is a very foolish thing when people say, "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God."

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

¹ Brooks, J. A. (2001). *Vol. 23: Mark* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (134). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.