

## “Your Kingdom Come”

### Mark 8:22-28 – The Mission of the King (Mark 8:22-9:29)

#### Seeing (8:22-26)

When he had spat on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, ‘Do you see anything?’ He looked up and said, ‘I see people; they look like trees walking around.’ (v.23-24)

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. (v.25)

#### Understanding (8:27-33)

**Identity:** ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah.’ (v.29)

**Mission:** He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this (v.31-32)

#### Following (8:34-38)

**Put Jesus first:** ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’ (v.34)

**It’s a matter of life and death:** ‘For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?’ (v.35-36)

**Jesus will judge and reward:** ‘If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.’ (v.38)

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#### Digging Deeper questions for group discussion & personal reflection

##### Seeing (8:22-26)

The blind man was healed in 2 stages, indicating that ‘seeing’ who Jesus is can come in stages for us:

- Can you remember when Jesus revealed something significant about himself to you and what impact it made on you?
- What things about Jesus do you still struggle to understand?

##### Understanding (8:27-33)

If someone asked you, “Who is Jesus?” how would you answer in a way that really sums up his identity?

Why did Peter have such a problem with Jesus saying he would die on the cross?

How did Jesus realise that Satan was trying to influence this situation?

How can we stay thankful for the fact that Jesus was determined to go to the cross?

##### Following (8:34-38)

What did Jesus mean when he told those who want to follow him to ‘take up their cross’?

What is the cost and what is the gain to following Jesus?

Why is it important for people to recognise both aspects of discipleship before making decision to follow Jesus?

In what way is Jesus calling you to a more ‘cross-centred’ life right now?  
How can we keep each other as Christians accountable for the way we live?