

Session 10

Dying to Live



Reading: **Mark 8:27-9:1**

... Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life^[b] 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? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 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.”

Introduction:

This reading is a watershed moment in Mark’s gospel, a turning point in the whole narrative. It includes a call to fully trust in Jesus, and to find our lives by surrendering our whole self to him.

- What are some of the key moments which have shaped your life?
- Who/what do you put your trust in? (How long a list can you make!?)

WORD:

READ the whole of Mark 8:27 - 9:1

Peter first recognises Jesus as Lord: “You are the Messiah!”; and then an instant later we read “Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him”.

- What picture does that give you of Peter’s relationship with Jesus?
- Can you think of times/situations where you have questioned God’s ways?

Jesus rebuked Peter and said: “You do not have in mind the concerns of God”.

- In what areas are you most tempted to have the “mind of ‘man’” rather than the mind of God?
- What things help you have the “mind of God”.

READ v34-38

- What is your response to these verses?
- What encourages you?
- What questions do they lead you to have?

PRAYER: What prayer response does today’s reading and discussion invite?

ACTION: What practical action does today’s reading and discussion encourage?