

Incomprehensible*The Messianic Secret from the Gospel of Mark*

In the Gospel of Mark we find a truth that helps us ready our hearts for celebrating Easter (and continues to help us appreciate what Jesus does for us every day of our lives). Studying certain passages shows us that ***what it means to follow Jesus is incomprehensible apart from His death and resurrection.***

Before His death and resurrection, nobody understood Jesus; the crowds didn't and His even his disciples didn't. It wasn't until after the resurrection that people began to truly understand what it meant to follow Jesus.

Read Mark 1:40-45

1. What stands out to you about the way in which Jesus heals the leper?
2. What surprises you about Jesus' instruction to the leper after he is healed?
3. What reason(s) might Jesus have had to ask some of the people he healed to keep the miracle to themselves?

Read Mark 4:10-12

1. Why do you think Jesus taught in parables?
2. Is there a parable or story from any Gospel that has helped you better understand yourself, your heart, or the heart of Jesus?

Read Mark 9:30-32

1. Steve said the disciples struggled to understand that Jesus had to die because they simply couldn't imagine the Messiah being crucified. They didn't have a category for that kind of savior. Have you ever struggled with understanding why Jesus had to die for you?
2. Steve said the Gospel is the only thing that can help us make sense of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection:

"If we lose sight of the gospel, following Christ becomes overwhelming; His commands seem unreasonable and undoable. But if we believe the gospel and preach the gospel to ourselves day by day, following Jesus becomes a life-giving, interactive relationship with our risen Lord who dwells within us."

3. In what ways have you seen the Gospel shape your life? What sort of things has it changed about you, or the way you see and understand the world? What sort of things might you still need to surrender to God to have transformed by the Gospel?

Steve Asked: *"What if I really believed the gospel - that Jesus died and rose again on my behalf? How would it shape the way I think and feel and speak and act? Let God surprise you with the beauty and power of the gospel."*

Remember the Reading Plan!

Holy Week Reading Guide:

For each passage ask these questions:

What are some implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus for the way I think, feel, and act?

What is one specific situation in which I can apply the command or truth of this passage?

2 Corinthians 5:11-15 - living for "Him who died and rose again on [our] behalf"

Romans 6:1-11 - "... dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus"

Romans 8:1-17 - "... the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. . ."

Colossians 3:1-4 "... if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above"

Philippians 3:17-21 - "... who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory..."