

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 1st March 2015

LENT 11 : Atonement Absolution Abstention

As We Gather

In this reading Mark recounts that Jesus spoke plainly for the first time about what lay ahead in Jerusalem. The disciples were stunned.

Reading Scripture MARK 8 : 31 - 38

The twelve disciples were confused, and could not understand why, if Jesus was indeed the Christ [Mark 8:29-30], the religious leaders would reject Him and want to kill (crucify) Him.

Why did Peter 'rebuke' Jesus? Discuss

Why did Jesus respond the way He did (Mark 8:33)? Discuss
[see also Luke 4:13]

What is the lesson we can learn from this conversation? Discuss

Even when Jesus was teaching His disciples privately, the crowds were never far away. When He saw that the twelve did not understand His meaning (Mark 8:31) {they may also have been experiencing an element of fear – what happened to Jesus would surely happen to His followers} – Jesus turned to include the crowd in His explanation of the relationship between suffering and glory (Mark 8:34-38)

Are you willing to make serving Christ more important than your own desires (Mark 8:34)? Discuss

Motives for following Jesus are often mixed, and many forget there is a price to pay for true discipleship (Mark 8:35)

- Total surrender of self to Christ [Matthew 8:18-22 Matthew 10:37-39]
- Identification with Christ in His suffering and death [Matthew 10:34-36 and 1 Peter 1:3-9 + 4:12-16]
- Follow obediently wherever Christ leads [Matthew 10:17-20 Matthew 28:18-20]

What is the difference between denying self and self-denial (Mark 8:36)? Discuss

Where do you put your values in life – do you waste your life or do you invest your life (Mark 8:37)? Discuss

In Closing

The confidence of Jesus was amazing (Mark 8:28). He had just been speaking of His death, yet was absolutely sure that the cross would end in victory.

Most people are not willing to pay the price of true discipleship (Mark 8:35b), but when we live for Christ we become more like Him and this brings out our unique individuality.

What does the following phrase mean to you – 'because we live for Christ we live for others?'

