



Rockbridge Church Small Groups Lesson 8

Mark 8 – Real Jesus (Read Mark 8)

Questions:

1. What do you see in Mark 8 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. In what ways do you see Jesus hard at work, on a mission, with a purpose, loving people?
3. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter? (What about Jesus astonishes you, amazes you, challenges you or comforts you?)
4. In Mark 8, who encounters Jesus, and how do they respond to Him?
5. How are you responding to the Jesus you encountered in Mark 8?
6. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from Sunday's sermon?

Check out the additional notes on **Radical Discipleship** on the next page.

Radical Discipleship

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Mark 8:34

Jesus called people to be His fully devoted followers. It's a call to radical discipleship. So what is radical discipleship? Why the term?

The English word "*radical*" is derived from the Latin word *radix*, a root. In common usage, the word came to be applied to anybody whose beliefs and behaviors went to the root – people who were extreme and wholehearted in their following.

The word "disciple" means a learner. It is a compelling word that pictures the relationship of a follower to his or her teacher. Since Jesus is more than a teacher – He is God and Lord – our discipleship is much more than learning; it also involves wholehearted obedience.

Three more things about radical discipleship. First, it's essential to think of our discipleship as radical so that we can distinguish it from our contemporary self-absorbed and consumer-driven Christian sub-culture. The call to follow Jesus is a call to surrender, sacrifice, suffering and service. It is also call to radical happiness and peace and purpose and hope.

Second, it is to be visible. People should see the life of Jesus in us. Indeed the world is desperate to see that there are other ways to live, and all too often Christians tend to conform to the patterns of society rather than demonstrating the distinctiveness that Jesus calls us to.

Third, it is transferable – others are to imitate us, and we are to make disciples. Followers introduce others to following. Our radical discipleship is not only to be seen. It is to be explained and passed on to others – to family and friends, to neighbors and to the nations. Radical discipleship is about both growing in Christ and living on mission for Christ.

Here is a fuller definition or description of radical discipleship. Think about how it reflects your life as a follower of Jesus.

"Radical discipleship is the life of Jesus Christ being formed in me
by the transforming work of God's Spirit and God's Word.
It is a new life lived in relationship with God,
in community with God's people,
and on mission to God's world."