

## **SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE**

### **Mark 8:22–38**

22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. 23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man’s eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?”

24 He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

25 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. 26 Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t even go into[a] the village.”

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

31 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. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

34 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. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 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.”

### **Clarity in following Jesus means living a ...**

#### **1. Cross-centered life.**

#### **2. Cross-shaped life.**

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# GROUP DISCUSSION

**Please read the passage(s) of Scripture together as a group.**

- At first glance, what stands out to you personally from this passage?
- As you listened to the sermon this weekend, what did God show you about Himself? Did you learn something new about God or yourself?
- Have you ever been partially blind, spiritually speaking?
- How does Jesus tie together the Old and New Testaments in this story?
- As a group, think about all the reasons and implications for the “divine necessity of the cross?”
- Where is the Lord leading you to focus on Him so you can lead a cross centered life?
- Is the Lord asking you to give Him anything so you can live a cross shaped life?
- How can our group pray for you this week?