

Can You See Him Now?

Mark 8:22-35

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you tried to explain something to someone and they just couldn't "get it." Were there reasons they couldn't (or wouldn't) "see" it? What were they?

Big Idea: Peter knows that Jesus is the Messiah. But when Jesus starts talking about suffering and death, it doesn't make any sense to Peter. It doesn't fit his view of the Messiah. Not only that – but it was ruining Peter's 'happily ever after' story that he had written for himself.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Mark 8:22-33. How does the "two-take" miracle story (v22-26) serve as a set of lenses for understanding the conversations between Jesus and his disciples (v27-33)?
- 2) Why do you think Peter began to rebuke Jesus? If you had been Peter – and you had seen Jesus cast out demons, cure the sick, feed the multitudes and raise the dead – how would you have responded to Jesus talking about suffering and dying? Why?
- 3) Are there things in your life (or in the world) that tempt you to "take Jesus aside" (v32) and explain to Him how there is a "better" way? Confess those things to each other.
- 4) Read Mark 8:34-35. What exactly is Jesus' invitation to the crowd (and his disciples)? How does this invitation compare to the invitations extended by most churches/pastors? What are the ramifications for a church that doesn't call people to take up their cross?
- 5) Spend time praying for each other (and our church family) that we would let go of our own expectations and ambitions of what we think our life "should" be – and instead – follow Jesus: entering into a life that may be marked by hardship, but one that will also be marked by peace, power, joy, forgiveness, and a deep sense of purpose.