

Mark's Wild Gospel

Week 6 – The Way of the Wild

1. If your closest friends were asked to share a word or two that best describes you, what might they say?
2. Read Mark 8:27-38. With Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the journey of the second half of Mark's Gospel begins shifting from addressing the question "Who is Jesus?" to understanding "Why did Jesus come?" In this passage we see the climax and turning point to the story – in the realisation of who Jesus is. And yet, from Peter's reaction to Jesus talking about his impending death, he didn't fully understand what sort of Messiah Jesus was. How come many Australians would agree Jesus is God's Son, yet it makes no difference in their lives?
3. Reread verses 27-30. According to the opinion polls of that day, what words or labels were people using to describe Jesus? Why? What words do people today use to describe who Jesus is? Why (i.e. what shapes their opinions)?
4. Why is the question, "Who do you say I am?" so important? Who do you say Jesus is, and how has your answer to that question changed over time?
5. Reread verses 31-33. What four things does Jesus' prophesy about himself? Why do Peter and Jesus each react so strongly?
6. How do we sometimes/often settle for a less-than-who-He-truly-is appreciation of Jesus? How did Jesus respond to Peter, and how does He similarly respond to our contemporary mistaken approaches to Jesus?
7. Reread verses 34-38. According to these verses what is involved in being a follower of Jesus?
8. What reasons does Jesus give for why people should follow him down this hard road?
9. How has your relationship with Jesus affected your lifestyle? Relationships? Priorities? Politics?