

Date: October 25, 2026
Series: The Gospel According to Mark
Title: "Turning Point"
Text: Mark 8:27-38



Introduction:

Knowing *who* Jesus is isn't enough until we accept _____ of Christ He is, and that confession turns every one of His followers onto the road of the cross.

I. Jesus confronts us with the question that _____ (27–30)

How would YOU answer the question, "Who do you say Jesus is?"

II. Jesus corrects our expectations with the _____ He came to bear. (31–33)

The demands of Jesus' Mission:

- Suffering
- Rejection
- Death
- Resurrection

Scriptures: Mark 10:45; Matthew 16:22

III. Jesus calls us to _____ on the road of the cross. (34–38)

The demands of discipleship:

- Deny yourself
- Take up your cross
- Follow Christ.

Scriptures: **Galatians 2:20; John 6:37**

Questions to consider and discuss:

Jesus' Identity (vv. 27–30)

1. The crowds had many respectful opinions about Jesus, but every one fell short. What are some "nice but not enough" views of Jesus people hold today? How would you respond to these views? Why is respect for Jesus not the same as faith in Him?
2. Jesus asked, "But who do *you* say that I am?" If a coworker or neighbor asked you that this week, what would you say in two or three sentences? Is your answer truly your own, or have you been leaning on someone else's?

Jesus' Mission (vv. 31–33)

3. Peter rebuked Jesus because a suffering, crucified Messiah didn't fit his expectations. Why *must* Jesus suffer, die, and rise again? What would we lose if there were a Christ without a cross?
4. Like Peter, we can try to "recalculate" Jesus' route for our lives. Where are you most tempted to want a Jesus who brings comfort but never calls for sacrifice nor makes demands on your life?

A Disciple's Calling (vv. 34–38)

5. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him daily. Name one specific area where self is still on the throne: your calendar, money, entertainment, relationships, or reputation. What is one concrete step of obedience you will take there this week? Who will you ask to hold you accountable?
6. Jesus warns against being ashamed of Him and His words. Where do you feel the pull to keep your faith quiet or private? How does knowing the Son of Man will return in glory (v. 38), and that Jesus restored Peter after his failure (Mark 16:7), give you both courage and hope?