

JESUS' SECRET

Mark 3:10-12

Mark 8:27-33

Mark 10:42-45

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- If someone asked you “who is Jesus?”, what would you say?
- Are there ever good reasons to keep information about yourself a secret? What might those reasons be?

The Gospel of Mark has a few very strong themes. As we read through the stories in Mark, we see Jesus repeatedly commanding demons not to tell anyone who he is and warning his disciples not to reveal his true identity. Scholars call this the “Messianic Secret.” While it can be hard to understand why Jesus would want to keep his true identity secret, we know Jesus always has a purpose. Discover why Jesus’ secrecy mattered to his mission and listen as Mark reveals Jesus’ true identity so that we might better recognize him, understand his mission, and grow as his disciples.

Listen: [*Jesus’ Secret*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Jesus commanded demons and his disciples not to disclose his identity because, if revealed too early, it would compromise his mission. Dr. Gary Burge notes that Jesus wants to control the moment his identity is fully disclosed. How does understanding Jesus’ purpose for secrecy help us understand God’s perfect timing in our own lives?
- In reflecting on Jesus Christ’s miraculous acts, Dr. Gary Burge observes that “Jesus is addressing the things that were fundamentally giving people fear.” What fears might Jesus miraculously address today? In the face of these fears, how can we help each other remember that Jesus “has the power to correct those things that will hurt [us], and that God is standing with [us] to protect [us] through this life” as Dr. Burge reminded us?
- In the second half of Mark, Jesus redefines Messiahship. Three times he talks about his death and teaches that the Messiah will have to suffer death. The Apostle Peter attempts to rebuke him, but instead, Jesus corrects Peter’s mistaken expectations for the Messiah. Host Scott Hoezee warns that we should not dismiss this lesson. Rather, this story gives us the opportunity to examine our own hearts. What expectations do you hold for Jesus that you might need to dismantle? How might we be trying to remake Jesus into our own image instead of us being remade into his image?
- According to Dictionary.com, a martyr is “a person who willingly suffers death rather than renounce his or her religion.” Why is it important that Jesus makes a point to clarify that he is not a martyr and that his death is instead a sacrifice that will set people free?

Related Passages

- **Mark 1:21-28**
- **Mark 5:6-8**
- **Mark 9:30-32**
- **Mark 10:32-34**
- **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

Conclusion

Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. Reflecting on what you now know about Mark's theme of messianic secrecy, what new insights do you find in this well-loved passage? Spend some time in prayer.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to make you aware of any mistaken expectations you have for Jesus that prevent you from understanding his true identity and mission
- Pray that he will make himself fully known to you
- Pray with thanksgiving for his love and his perfect timing

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jesus-secret>

Printed on July 3, 2024