

Jesus' Secret

Throughout his gospel, Mark works hard to reveal Jesus Christ's true identity. Yet he also recounts Jesus' call for secrecy, as Jesus repeatedly warns anyone who calls him the Son of God or the Messiah to not tell anyone. How are we to understand Jesus' desire for secrecy? Are we supposed to talk about him or not? Study the theme of secrecy in the Gospel of Mark to discover more about the identity of Jesus Christ and grow in your understanding of God's perfect timing. Join us as we listen to Jesus redefine what it means to be the Messiah, revealing and correcting any mistaken expectations we perpetuate.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus' Secret](#)

READ [Mark 3:10-12](#), [Mark 8:27-33](#), [Mark 10:42-45](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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

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