

DISCUSSION IDEAS

THE CROSS BEFORE THE CROWN

Mark 8:27-9:1

December 13th, 2015

Page 1 of 2

- ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT A STRANGE IDEA!**
What must the disciples have thought?
First, in Mark 8:27-30 what was the point of Jesus' question?
What was the difference between who people thought He was, and His true identity?
Second, following Peter's statement in v 29, imagine the reaction to what Jesus says in v 31.

- ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT PROPHECIES FORETOLD THAT MESSIAH WAS DEITY, AND THAT HE HAD TO DIE?.**
Read Isaiah 9:6 and 41:22-24. Who was the Redeemer to be?
And now read Isa. 52:13-53:12!
Interesting item: In Isa. 53:9 the Jews intended for Jesus to be dumped into a criminals' burial place, BUT, what does the next phrase say? "and with" with whom? Note the important article "a" before the words "rich man". Who was that? (Matt. 27:57; Mark 15:43; Luke 23:51; John 19:38)
Think about the specific prophecy, given over 700 years earlier, that was fulfilled here!

- ♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: JUST HOW EXTENSIVE IS GOD'S LOVE?**
Look at God's self description in Exodus 34:6-7a.
Now consider the truth of the rest of verse 7.
Who is guilty? Look at Isa. 53:6. Note God's stated solution.
Was God just nice to us, or was this the most mind-boggling act of LOVE imaginable?
Discuss 1 John 4:7-11.

- ♦ **CHALLENGE: WHAT RESPONSE DOES GOD'S LOVE REQUIRE OF ME?**
What about the first Believers? Look at Mark 8:34-38.
What about me, today?
What does it communicate if I become complacent and just live for myself? After all, life is a complicated, right?

- ♦ **PRAYER:**

DISCUSSION IDEAS

THE CROSS BEFORE THE CROWN

Mark 8:27-9:1

December 13th, 2015

Page 2 of 2

Let us be faithful in praying for our leaders, missionaries and fellow believers.

This week pray also for Ray Cardona as he grieves the loss of his wife, Lillian.

John and Bobbi Pearson are back from Spain, living in the USA now, and are looking to God for His next assignment.

The Ingvoldstads and Binders are with the Tagbanwa people:

- Ingvoldstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?
- Pray for their health.
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the selection and growth of Tagbanwan Elders.
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.