

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor discusses the most important question in Scripture from Mark 8:22-38. The message begins with a baptism testimony from Aiden, who shares how he found Jesus after years of striving for approval and emptiness. The sermon then explores Jesus healing a blind man in stages as a living parable about spiritual sight. The pastor highlights four key elements: the miracle (healing the blind man), the question ("Who do you say I am?"), the rebuke (Jesus rebuking Peter for having human concerns rather than God's), and the call (to deny oneself and follow Jesus). The central focus is on Jesus asking his disciples who they believe he is - a question that determines our identity, purpose, and eternal destiny. The sermon concludes with a challenge to not be ashamed of our faith and to surrender our lives fully to Jesus.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we ask that You would open our spiritual eyes just as Jesus opened the eyes of the blind man. Help us to see You clearly for who You truly are. We pray that our discussion would lead us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is in our lives and what it means to follow Him wholeheartedly. May we be honest with ourselves and with each other as we explore the most important question: who do we say Jesus is? Guide our conversation and help us to have in mind Your concerns rather than merely human concerns. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could have dinner with any historical figure (besides Jesus), who would you choose and why?

Key Verses

1. Mark 8:27-29
2. Mark 8:34-35
3. Mark 8:36
4. Ecclesiastes 3:11
5. Isaiah 55:6

Questions

1. The sermon mentions three big life questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What is my ultimate destiny? How has your relationship with Jesus helped answer these questions in your life?
2. Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' How would you personally answer this question today?
3. In the story, Jesus healed the blind man in stages. How has your spiritual sight developed over time? Can you share an example of when something became clearer to you in your faith journey?
4. The pastor said, 'We are conditioned to see things from man's point of view.' What are some ways our culture shapes how we see things from a human perspective rather than God's perspective?

5. Jesus rebuked Peter for having 'human concerns' rather than the 'concerns of God.' What's an area in your life where you might need to shift from human concerns to God's concerns?
6. What does it mean practically to 'deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus' in today's world?
7. The sermon mentioned that 'while faith is deeply personal, it was never meant to be private.' What makes it challenging to be public about your faith? How can we overcome those challenges?
8. How has your understanding of baptism and its significance been impacted by this message?

Life Application

This week, take an honest inventory of your media consumption and time spent in God's Word. The pastor mentioned that the average person spends 3.5 hours on social media daily but attends church only once every three weeks. Challenge yourself to intentionally reduce time spent on devices and increase time in Scripture, prayer, and worship. Each day, ask yourself: 'Am I seeing the world through human concerns or God's concerns?' Keep a journal of how this shift in focus changes your perspective on daily situations and relationships. Then, identify one way you can publicly acknowledge your faith this week - whether through a conversation, social media post, or act of service that points to Jesus.

Key Takeaways

1. The most important question we must answer is 'Who do you say Jesus is?' - our identity, purpose, and destiny depend on how we respond to this question.
2. Spiritual sight often develops progressively, just as Jesus healed the blind man in stages. We need Jesus to touch our eyes more than once to see clearly.
3. We are constantly bombarded with human concerns through media and culture, which can prevent us from seeing things from God's perspective.
4. Following Jesus requires denying ourselves (putting Jesus on the throne of our lives), taking up our cross (letting go of our old life), and following Him without shame.
5. Faith is deeply personal but was never meant to be private - we are called to publicly acknowledge our relationship with Jesus.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for challenging us with the most important question: who do we say You are? We confess that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God, our Savior and Lord. Forgive us for the times we've been ashamed of You or have allowed human concerns to cloud our spiritual vision. Touch our eyes again that we might see You more clearly. Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow You without reservation. Help us to find our true identity, purpose, and destiny in You alone. May we live boldly for You this week, unashamed of the gospel and eager to share Your love with others. Transform our perspective so that we see the world through Your eyes rather than through the lens of human concerns. In Your mighty name we pray, Amen.