

1. What are the key elements of the disciples' misunderstanding of Jesus' passion prediction in 8:32b-38?

I see 3 key components in Mark's description of the events following the Passion Prediction:

1. Peter Rebuking Christ; 32b
2. Christ Calls Peter Out; 33
3. Christ is "On the Nose" When Teaching; 38

2. What does each of these key elements mean?

1. Peter Rebuking Christ; all 32b

- a. Peter removes Jesus and himself from the public setting.
 - i. Illustrates Peter's attempt at directing Christ.
 - ii. Implies that Peter did not see fit that the others hear what he was going to say to Jesus.
- b. Peter "corrects" Christ as he seems to feel as though it is not appropriate for Christ to be speaking of such things.
 - i. Peter implies that he is better oriented to instruct Christ in this matter than to receive instruction from Jesus.

2. Christ Calls Peter Out; all 33

- a. Christ directs Peter to remember his position and not attempt to block the work that He must do.
 - i. "Behind" implies subservience.
 - ii. In this, Christ seems to remind Peter of who really runs the show.
 - iii. **Also indicates that Christ is not damning Peter, but extending an invitation for Peter to continue following him as he continues to lead the disciples in the days to come.**
- b. Christ calls Peter "Satan."
 - i. Satan = adversary
 - ii. *Christ is explaining to Peter that, as Peter is, Peter is an obstacle to Christ's mission and an adversary to the Spirit of God.*

- c. Christ blatantly point out Peter's misguided mindset.
 - i. Jesus states that Peter is focused on the wrong things.
 - ii. Christ proclaims to Peter that what the world deems appropriate/right, is not always in line with what God deems correct, and insinuates that worldly concerns should not obstruct heavenly mission.

3. Christ is "On the Nose" When Teaching; all 38

- a. "Adulterous", "Sinful"; Pointedly condemning words
- b. "Ashamed of me and my words" indicates that this is an overt response to Peter's action of taking Christ away from the group in order to "correct" him.
 - i. Christ seems to be getting at Peter in a more direct fashion in order to let him know that while he may have acted with "good intentions," devotion to Godly instruction is imperative in the process of salvation.
 - ii. Christ is saying that if his disciples do not stand proudly before the world on his behalf, then Christ will not stand proudly in front of his Father on theirs.

SUMMARY: Mark has strategically positioned instances indicating the misunderstanding on the behalf of the disciples, both through Peter's own actions and Christ's pointed and accusatory response. Christ is to be the leader of our lives, and we must accept his teachings as true disciples, in order to understand and further the mission of God.

3. What are the key elements of Jesus' correction of this misunderstanding in 8:32b-38?

I see 2 key components in Mark's description of the events following the Passion Prediction:

- 1. Self-Denial/Self-Sacrifice Lesson; 34-35
- 2. The Worth of Life Lesson; 36-37

4. What does each of the key elements mean?

1. Self-Denial/Self-Sacrifice Lesson; 34-35

- a. Jesus gather the group of followers, including the Twelve disciples; (34a)
 - i. "Called," commonly used verb preceding Jesus' acts of teaching
 - ii. Mark expressly indicates that this was a larger group that include the Twelve

- This could be a response to Peter's attempt to "teach" Christ in private, by Christ choosing to make it a public matter.
- **Indicates that Christ intended what followed to be a message for all people.**
- **Implies that by seeing the Twelve's misunderstanding, Christ realized that very few if any of his followers have understood his lessons on discipleship.**

b. Christ begins to teach (34b-35)

i. *Content of Teaching: Discipleship/What it requires*

ii. Actions of the Disciple: Want, deny, take up, and follow

- Jesus indicates that in order to be a disciple, there must first be a true desire in one's heart, implying that 'fair-weather' dedication will not be enough for one to follow the path he walks on.
- Jesus informs that a disciple will "deny themselves."
 - This is a more passive instance of Christ addressing Peter's personal concern when it came to the things Christ had been speaking about.
 - Indicates that the true disciple will put their wants and desires aside for a greater purpose.
- Christ says that a disciple will "take up their cross."
 - Again leans into the idea that true discipleship entails serving a greater purpose.
 - The motif of "taking up the cross" had not been yet substantiated. From this, we can infer that the message is that true discipleship will be burdensome in a sense.
 - Gives justifying reason to the need of a desire to first be in one's heart.
- **Upon the former three actions being completed, Jesus indicates that only then will one "follow him" and be a true disciple**

iii. Christ reiterates that true discipleship means a giving of one's life to the purposes of God's mission.

iv. **Christ delivers an exhortation, informing his listeners that while the path of true discipleship might be burdensome, there is great reward given to those that walk it.**

2. The Worth of Life Lesson; 36-37

a. Christ delivers a lesson functionally built around the worth of a soul.

- The worth of a soul is greater than the value of the world.
- The worth of a soul is greater than anything the average person could pay.

b. In this lesson, Christ implies that the reasoning used by those trying to dissuade or prevent what he has predicted is flawed by human nature.

- i. Christ's death was to redeem the fallen of all mankind.
- ii. Only Christ's death was sufficient for the purpose.
- iii. **These teachings indicate that the wants of the disciples to keep Christ was rooted in selfishness born of misunderstanding what he had come to do.**

SUMMARY: Mark has intertwined the indications of misunderstanding with correction by Christ through exemplary lessons. By informing the Twelve (and others) of the actual nature of true discipleship, Christ strips the disciples of the delusion that discipleship is simple, indicating that sacrifices will have to be made.

5. How does the disciples' misunderstanding and Jesus' correction of that misunderstanding help us understand what it means to recognize Jesus as the "Christ"?

- Christ has explained that discipleship is a lifestyle rooted in sacrifice of self to greater purpose.
- Christ's correction of the manner by which mankind places value on certain things/ideas indicates that we are to see beyond ourselves.
- Christ implies that disciples are to model sacrificial nature by emulating him, and the way he serves the Father.
- Christ's allusion to the purpose of his sacrifice being to save souls, accompanied by the implication that only he was sufficient for such a purpose, models the process of serving a greater purpose.

SUMMARY: Through this passage, and the sequences of misunderstanding and correction, Mark builds the idea of Jesus as "Christ" by purporting him to be the ultimate model of a disciple, as he is a disciple to the Father and serves the greater purpose of redeeming mankind.