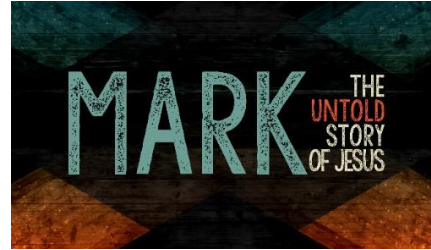


Eastridge Church
Sermon Study Questions

Series - Mark: The Untold Story of Jesus

Week 22: Making Circles

Passage: Mark 7:31-8:13



Conversation Starter:

Who in your life stands out as great example of faithfulness? This could be someone you know/knew or someone from Scripture.

Pastor Dwain used the imagery of “making circles” to describe how we intentionally focus on important things in our lives. This can be done in the positive sense or the negative sense. *Take some time to reflect. What do you make circles around? Do they tend to be concerns or areas you look to grow in? How is God asking you to bring those “circles” to Him?*

An important point within the sermon is that God desires for us to grow in understanding Him better. Another way to describe this is growing in maturity of faith. Read Hebrews 5:12-14. *How are you looking to increase in maturity? What practices (vs 14) would be good to put into place? What would training (vs 14) in those practices look like?*

In Mark 8:11-13 we see that the Pharisees confront Jesus and try to control him by having him “perform” for them. The Pharisees are demanding empirical proof (a sign) for Jesus’ authority and God-hood, but Jesus knows that the only way to a true relationship with Him, one that is grounded in love, is by faith and degrees, not by empirical data that demands unquestioning obedience. Saving faith in Jesus is ultimately believing beyond the empirical data. *What issue in your life has you frustrated with God because you don’t understand what His plan is? How can you begin to give that over to Him?*

Finally, read over the quote below:

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” — C.S. Lewis, *Is Theology Poetry?*

Spend some time reflecting on this quote as a group. What does Lewis mean when he says “by it I see everything else”? Close your time praying that God would help you to see the present through the lens of His faithful presence in the past.