



Sermon Overview

Everything we see Jesus doing and saying has been to help readers (then and now) gradually see who he is. The gospel now approaches its first of two climactic spots – one in its middle, and one at its end. In both spots, a significant person “gets it,” and confesses openly that Jesus has “the name which is above every other name.” Here in 8:29, Peter says, “You are the Christ”, namely, the promised Messiah who would bring God’s kingdom to earth and heal all ills.” Then, at the end of the gospel, in 15:29, a centurion at the cross says, “Surely this man was the Son of God.” First, one of his own disciples begins to understand who he is, and finally the whole world will see who he is. But up until this spot in 8:29, the disciples have responded to all the evidence with an amazing lack of comprehension. They still don’t “get it.” They don’t see the obvious.

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Getting Started

1. As we read through the Gospel of Mark, we are consistently surprised (and even frustrated) that the disciples could be so slow to understand and believe. Consider times in your life when you were slow to “get it” when it comes to the gospel. What areas of life continue to confuse you? How is God showing His faithfulness and patience with you?

Starting with God

2. In verse 11, why does the text say the Pharisees ask for a sign? Why wouldn’t Jesus give them one? What does this teach us about the nature of faith and the character of Jesus?

3. What is Jesus trying to communicate to his disciples in verses 14-21? What does their failure to understand teach us about *ourselves*?
4. Read verses 22-26. Why does Mark put this healing account here between the rebuke of the Pharisees and disciples, and the story of Peter's confession?

Living God's Word

5. Read verses 27-30. What does Jesus' question tell us about Jesus? What does Peter's answer tell us about Jesus?

Prayer

*Father God,
Thank you for your faithfulness and patience with me. Please change my heart to believe and
trust you for who you say you are.
Amen.*