

Jan 27th 2008: The Markan Hinge: Mark 8:22-9:1

In our study of Mark's.....we come this morning to a passage.....Markan Hinge

All know what a hinge is.....

The Markan Hinge.....that point in the book.....where two great truths come together

The truth about who the MESSIAH is.....AND truth about what the Messiah will do

In chapter 8:27-29.....we reach the point....where ...after nearly 9 chapters.....it becomes clear .that the first half.....hinge....completed.....THE first truth.....Jesus is The Messiah.....proven

<p>Mark 8:27-29</p> <p>Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am? YOU ARE THE CHRIST <u>The Disciples see Jesus as the Christ</u></p>	<p>Mark 8:31-32</p> <p>The Son of Man must Suffer: Rejected: Killed: Rise Again The Messiah's Victory is Gained Through Suffering, Death, Resurrection</p>
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- **Then Straight afterwards....even as one hinge face touches
So the second great truth....introduced**

THEN...just as it took nearly 9.....to complete the first side.....The first great truth

SO It would take the last 8.....to complete the second.....

And when we read what happens next....we realize that convincing... of the 2nd....going to be tough

8:32 "He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him."

But then Jesus.....looking at all the disciples.....publicly rebuked Peter

"Get behind me Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter.....One moment top of the class with the correct response.....**You are the Christ**

The next.....embarrassed and forlorn.....in the corner wearing the dunces cap !!

- **Peter had not intended** to allow Satan to use him....but that's what happened
Satan was once more tempting Jesus.....as he had in the desert

In Matt 4:10 we find Jesus saying..."Away from me, Satan!"

And here he talks to Satan again.....says the very same thing

What He says to Peter is: **"You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."** **You are looking at the Messiah's work from a human viewpoint**

Wizard of Oz

Peter andhad a strong expectation.....regarding the way the Messiah would act
They saw Him as the Son of Man....pictured in Daniel(as far as they were concerned)
as a powerful all conquering warrior

Jesus would be their leader.....

Using His miraculous powersto force out their enemies

And they would be His generals

- **But that** was man's thinking.....not God's.....**And Jesus uses The Son of Man title**
And it was import that they began to see that....**because Jesus' way**....is also the way for His followers

- **The message that the 2nd face...hinge....contains**

Is not just that the Messiah will overcome.....by denying Himself

But that His followers will also overcome evil.....by denying themselves.....putting Jesus first

- **That's why** Jesus went on to sayto the crowd as well as.....v34-35

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will loose it, but whoever looses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

This was such a hard lesson for those disciples to accept

They knew that a person carrying a cross.....was on a very short journey....**to a harsh death**

And what Jesus was asking them for.....Was not a commitment to be a powerful general

But a willingness to follow Him through suffering and shame and death

To do things His way.....Even if that meant denying themselves things...pleasures....
...that others enjoy

After this they still followed.....it took them a long time.....**before** they were ready
to see Jesus as the Messiah ...who would gain the victory from the cross

- **Indeed.....it was not till after His resurrection**.....That they understood His way of victory
And also came to realize.....that whatever the cost of following Jesus

Even the denying of themselves -→ the taking up of the cross.

It was more than worth it.....For the resurrected One would give them life eternal

- **What is helpful for us to see...→**Jesus was not surprised.....by their slowness to see Him clearly
OR ..**That their understanding** of his role as messiah.....and theirs as His followers....out of focus

- **In fact He gave** them an illustration of their response.....before it happened
He healed a blind man....

We read in Mark 8:22-23.....**(ON SCREEN)**

So far this is like any other miracle
Except for the question.....**Do you see anything?**

- **In no other miracle does Jesus check to see whether its worked**
But in this one He did.....**And some might say**.....Just as well !!!!
For the man's answer was very revealing

"He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.' Once more Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly."

- **Jesus could have easily healed.....in one go.....**
But there was something more import.....wanted His disciples to look back on.....**To learn from**
For they too had begun to see.....They knew He was the Christ
- **But** like the man who saw people like trees walking.....**their spiritual vision**.....needed correction
- **They needed to recognize** the sacrifice the Christ would make for them.....
And also understand.....**the self denial** He would demand from them

Its that same self denial.....The willingness to put Christ first....**whatever** the cost to us personally
That the Lord wants to see in everyone of His children
Yet at times I think.....we see with joy what Christ has done for us
Accept the salvation he offers.....**But stop** short of seeing His sacrifice
As our example

If we see Jesus as a Saviour.....whose demands upon our lives.....**can** safely be ignored
Then we only have partial sight.
His message in Mark 8.....about believers being preparedto suffer hardship for His sake
To not be ashamed of Him....or of speaking His words.....is pertinent to me and to you.

He wants us to see him clearly: To fully understand the sacrifice He made for us.....and to be prepared
To make sacrifices that others may hear His voice too

- **Jesus calls us to be inconvenienced so that others**.....**He** gladly went beyond that for us
How willing are we to be inconvenienced for Him ??

