

Take ACTION

Weekly Sermon Insert and Devotional

LOVE • LEARN • SHARE • SERVE

Week of February 8th

Action Point: Mark 8:27-9:8

LOVE God and One Another: This week Peter names Jesus' true identity, Jesus tells them of his death and resurrection, and his divinity is revealed on the mountaintop.

LEARN From the Journey: Prayer for each day: *God, thank you for your Word. Help me to see new things today so I can love others in new ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

SHARE the Word of God: What would it look like to share the word in action and not "quotes?" Look for a passage this week that you can share that helps you better understand God's love or God's presence in your life.

Monday Read Mark 8:27-30. Jesus asks what the rumors are concerning his identity. After the disciples respond, he teaches them that it doesn't matter. Only what they say, what they believe in their hearts truly matters. He asks them to keep quiet so that people will continue to listen and not discount him as a madman or come to worship and miss the Kingdom message of love and reconciliation. Who do you say that Jesus is in *your* life?

Tuesday Read Mark 8:31-33. I've always cringed at this passage. For Jesus to call Peter "Satan" is pretty extreme. But Peter was trying to put Jesus in the box, to tell Jesus what should be done. Jesus wasn't having it. No one puts baby in the corner, and no one can keep Christ in a box. When have you tried to dictate to God what should be done? None of us want to experience pain, but Jesus tells us it is part of life. "Get behind me" is both a command and a comfort, because he will shield us if we "get in line." Oh, and today is Shrove Tuesday...have some pancakes!

Wednesday Read Joel 2:1-2, 12-17. Today is Ash Wednesday where Christians all over the world commit to a season of looking inward in the hope of drawing closer to Christ. What is something that you can do for Lent? Can you give something up that gets in the way of your relationship with God? Can you start something new that increases your joy?

Thursday Read Mark 8:34-37. Here again Jesus is telling us that our life won't work unless he is in charge. In fact, when we do it our way, the opposite will happen. We try to live forever, we lose our life in a shallow, narcissistic identity. Taking a cross means Jesus comes first. What things in your life do you spend time trying to control? What might presenting them to Christ do for you? What might Christ say about those pressing priorities you have yet to let him order in your life?

Friday Read Mark 8:38-9:1. Jesus says that we do not let go of priorities in our lives because we are ashamed of him. I think it can also be because we don't truly trust him and that we are afraid of what life might be like for us if we didn't have the illusion of control. Regardless, he is very firm on where those who ignore his voice in their lives will end up. It isn't a message of judgment but a shout of urgency for hope!

Saturday Read Mark 9:2-8. How does this compare with Peter's thoughts on Tuesday? Is he still trying to make everything fit neatly into a box? Needless to say, he and the others are terrified. He reaches to the only thing he knows to do, follow a tradition and give honor to the past. The tents are meant to keep everything nice and neat. But faith is messy and we make an even bigger mess of it, but that's okay because **Jesus** is the Son of God, not us. He loves us being messy and imperfect, as long as we keep trying to put him first and loving like he teaches us, we're doing just fine.

SERVE: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Healing Strength: Beverly Kysar, Wilbur Meyer, Paul Hagan, Larry Suits, Rex Townsend, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna's daughter)

Congratulations: Travis Fuller & Whitney Writt on the birth of their daughter, Kinley Victoria.

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

Others: