**RE-ROUTING OUR PRIORITIES**

**Mark 8:27-38**

* **“Re-Routing” is needed at times in our lives because our direction determines our destination.**
* **We live out each day in our life from a set of priorities, even when we’re not aware that we’re living by those priorities.**
* **At the top of our list of priorities, we should always be striving to love the Lord and live for Him in greater ways.**
* Jesus - *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command.”* (Matthew 22:37-38)
* Jesus - *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you..”* (Matthew 6:33)
* **Question - *“What are some steps we can take to prioritize the Lord and His way and will in our lives?”***

***“RE-ROUTING OUR PRIORITIES” INCLUDES:***

**MAKING THE RIGHT CONFESSION**

* *“Jesus went out with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the road He asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ 28 They answered Him, ‘John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets.’ 29 ‘But you,’ He asked them, ‘who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered Him, ‘You are the Messiah.’”* (Mark 8:27-29)
* **Mark continually points out the deity and authority of Jesus in his gospel account.**
* *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”* (Mark 1:1)

***We Need To Affirm That:***

* **JESUS HAS A SUPERNATURAL ANOINTING**
* **“Christ” is a Greek word while “Messiah” is a Hebrew word – but both mean “the Anointed One”**
* Jesus - *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”* (Luke 4:18)
* **When we or others need salvation, consolation, emancipation, illumination or liberation, Jesus is the One who has the anointing and power to meet those needs in our lives.**

***We Need To Affirm That:***

* **JESUS HAS A SUPERNATURAL AUTHORITY**
* *“Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ …19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven…’”* (Matthew 16:16,19a)
* **Jesus has authority over His Church, over the powers of hell, and over the circumstances of life.**
* Jesus – *““All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* (Matthew 28:18)
* **For every 1 time Jesus is referred to as Savior in the Scriptures, He is referred to as Lord 11 times.**
* **Jesus transferred His authority and anointing to His disciples.**
* *“Summoning the Twelve, He gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 Then He sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”* (Luke 9:1-2)
* **Question – *“Does Jesus have full ‘authority’ in my life, and in what ways am I demonstrating His ‘anointing’ my life?”***

***“RE-ROUTING OUR PRIORITIES” INCLUDES:***

**DEVELOPING THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE**

* *“Then He began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. 32 He spoke openly about this. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God’s concerns but human concerns.’”* (Mark 8:31-33)
* **If Jesus hadn’t died for all mankind on the cross, we would have no hope of forgiveness and eternity in heaven.**
* *“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God.”* (1 Peter 3:18)

***“RE-ROUTING OUR PRIORITIES” INCLUDES:***

**LIVING BY THE RIGHT PRACTICES**

* *“Calling the crowd along with his disciples, He said to them, ‘If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”* (Mark 8:34)
* *“Jesus called the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and [a]take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].”* (Mark 8:34 AMP).

***Jesus Calls All Of His Followers To:***

* **A LIFE OF SELFLESSNESS** – *“…let him deny himself…””*
* **We grow up learning to delight ourselves rather than deny ourselves.**
* **The first obstacle to following Jesus is overcoming selfishness.**

***Jesus Calls All Of His Followers To:***

* **A LIFE OF SACRIFICE –** *“Take up your cross”*
  + **We must be willing to crucify our “selfish nature” and even suffer for Him to become a true “follower” of Jesus.**
  + Paul - *“I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20)

***Jesus Calls All Of His Followers To:***

* **A LIFE OF SUBMISSION –** *“Follow Me”*
  + **Jesus must become the Leader and Boss of our lives.**
  + Jesus - *“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”* (Luke 14:27)
* **Question – *“What practices mentioned above need to be prioritized in my life in the days ahead?”***
* Jesus - *“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it. 36 For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? 37 What can anyone give in exchange for his life? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.’” (Mark 8:27-38)”* (Mark 8:35-38)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. What does Mark 8;27-38 say about God/Jesus?
2. What does Mark 8:27-38 say about the human perspective?
3. What does Jesus say is required to “follow” Him? Explain what that would look like in someone’s life.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

* What does Jesus being the “Messiah” mean, and how does that truth impact you personally?
* When did you fully embrace the truth that Jesus is the Messiah and the only way to Heaven? If you haven’t embraced that truth yet, what “roadblocks” are hindering you from doing that? What questions do have?
* Why is it sometimes a struggle to trust God at His word? (see verses 31-33) What are some ways you can overcome those struggles?
* In what ways have you demonstrated “denying yourself” and “taking up your cross” to follow Jesus?

1. Spend some time praying and asking the Lord to show you areas of your life you have not surrendered to Him. Ask the Lord to continue to do “heart surgery” to eradicate those areas that are not completely submitted to His Lordship.

**LOVING OUTWARD:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you inviting/bringing to church next Sunday?