

# Human Concern and Gods Concern

#  Mark 8:27-33

Don’t you hate a spoiler? Someone tells you something which spoilers the surprise, someone warns you of something you’d rather not know. The challenge of reading any of the Bible is that we have so many God spoilers, we know that Jesus raises again, we know what it means to call Jesus the Messiah. Because we know all this, we miss how difficult it was for the disciples to understand who Jesus is (spoiler: they get it eventually).

This week’s passage is named the ‘hinge section’ of Marks gospel, from the beginning to Mark 8:30 we have a Messiah of power, service, and authority. But, from this section forward we have a Messiah of rejection, suffering and death. In this moment of revelation there is a conflict of options and expectations between Peter and Jesus, we read as a follower tries to become to the leader. As readers we can wonder why Peter would be so confused to what Jesus is saying but, as said Peter had a very different expectation of what the Messiah would be. Jesus is unaffected by Peters words, he listens and then reminds him of his place, not one of control of identity or even spoilers, but Peters place is to follow Jesus. The rest, as we know, will work itself out.

**For discussion**

1. What is the biggest spoiler you have experienced? Who has shared something which has ruined the surprise?
2. Do you think it is always helpful to know the end of the gospels? Can you remember first reading them? How was it different?
3. When Peter said Messiah, we know that he didn’t fully understand what it meant. As a group discuss what the word messiah means to us as Christians.
4. The discussion between Jesus and Peter seemed to be around control, when have you felt convicted to lose control in order to follow Jesus?
5. Offer time for anyone in the group to receive prayer if they have been challenged by the understanding of Messiah or about control in their lives.