

# *Jesus the Challenging Savior*

**Appetizer:** Do we see Jesus clearly enough to follow him? This passage begins with Jesus healing a blind man----in two stages! Like this blind man, would-be followers of Jesus may need a “second touch” to see him clearly.

We live in an age of unprecedented communication about Jesus. Why then do you think so many people are still unclear about Jesus and what it means to follow him?

**Main Course:** Read Mark 8:22-38

1. What unusual steps does Jesus take in healing the blind man (vv. 22-26)?
2. Why might people have thought Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets (vv. 27-28)?
3. What half-truths about Jesus are widespread in society today?
4. Peter’s statement “You are the Christ” (v.29) has been called the confession that makes a person a true follower of Jesus. Why? (Compare Matthew 16:15-17 and John 6:68-69.)
5. Why do you think Peter rebukes Jesus (v. 32)?
6. Why do you think Jesus then rebukes Peter so strongly (v. 33)?
7. Jesus states that the cross is a “must” for us (vv. 34-38). Practically speaking, what does it mean to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him?
8. It has been said “it costs nothing to become a Christian but everything to be a Christian.” How is this supported by Christ’s teaching here (vv. 34-38)?
9. “I’d like to follow Christ, but I think it would cost too much.” How would you respond to such a statement in the light of verses 34-38?

**Dessert:** In this passage, for the first time Jesus tells his disciples that “the Son of Man..... must be killed” (v. 31). Read Isaiah 53. Why was the cross a “must” for Jesus?