

Review:

Lesson 1: Understanding Jesus

Lesson 2: Stewarding Understanding

Lesson 3: Exponential Growth

Lesson 4: A New Side of Jesus

Lesson 5: Demons, Pigs & Gentiles

Lesson 6: Resurrection

Lesson 7: Desperate Faith

Lesson 8: Hometown Blues

Lesson 9: Trial Run

Engaging Worldly Power

Mark 6:14-29

Spiritual authority and spiritual power are a complete _____ to the unbelieving world. Only God's Spirit can open our spiritual eyes to see and comprehend spiritual truth.

Discussion 1. If Spiritual things can only be understood by the work of the Spirit in a person, why do you suppose God doesn't just open everyone's spiritual eyes to see the truth? Why does He require a degree of faith first, before He truly reveals Himself?

There should be a stark _____ between the secular drive favoring what is popular and the Christ follower's spiritual drive favoring what points toward God. There should be, but is there?

Discussion 2. In western culture, the secular world is obsessed with (and largely driven by) what is popular. Do you think Christians are seen as being any different? Explain your answer.

When my highest value is what other people think, there is an inevitable trap ahead of me which will be _____. When my highest value is what God thinks, there may still be difficulties ahead, but the reward is so worth it.

Discussion 3. Has there ever been a time in your life when you cared more than you should have about what other people thought of you? How did you deal with that problem? How does following Jesus help you with it?

Following Jesus obviously does not make us immune to tragic losses in life; but it does give us a perspective, i.e., a _____ and a _____ that help us keep moving forward even as we grieve.

Discussion 4. Describe how your following Christ has helped you in times of great loss or grief. Do you think maintaining a sense of purpose and mission is important when you are grieving? Why or why not?