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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
www.ccclamesa.com

(Mis) Understanding Jesus

Mark 8:1-26

Series: *Getting In on the Good News*
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 8:17–18 (NIV) — *17* Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? **18** Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?...

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we open our eyes, ears and hearts to the wonder and power of the person and mission of Jesus, rather than trying to passively or aggressively get him to fit into our preconceived religious, political or social agendas.

Understanding Jesus...

- ❖ He is deeply compassionate and supremely capable to meet all our needs. (vs. 1-10)

Matthew 9:35–36 (NIV) — *35* Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. **36** *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

- He uses us to extend his care and healing to those around us.

John 14:12 (NIV) — *12* Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, **and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.**

- ❖ He will not be co-opted for anyone’s personal agenda. (vs. 11-13)

Luke 23:8–9 (NIV) — *8* When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, **he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.** *9* He plied him with many questions, **but Jesus gave him no answer.**

- ❖ He regularly exceeds our limited understanding and our misplaced expectations. (vs. 14-21)

Acts 11:17–18 (NIV) — *17* So if God gave [the Gentiles] the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” **18** When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “**So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.**”

Toward clearer vision and greater purpose...

- ❖ The more we press into Jesus, the more he will help us see and understand who he is and how we can join him on his mission.

Mark 1:16–18 (NIV) — *16* As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **17** “**Come, follow me,**” Jesus said, “**and I will send you out to fish for people.**” *18* At once they left their nets and followed him.