

# Advancing Into Childlikeness, Mark 8.27-9.13, 12.11.16

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## Introduction

- Children are always...(top of screen. I want to write on the screen)
- When a child is not growing, it is a sign of a...problem.(same as above)
  - Mk.10.14-15 – The Kingdom belongs to the childlike.
  - Big Idea: If we want to grow into Christlikeness, then we must advance into childlikeness.
- Text
- Context:
  - This section is the hinge portion of the gospel. Jesus is transitioning from his ministry phase to focus on his death and resurrection. He begins preparing them for these realities and what they must do (8.34-38) to follow wholeheartedly after Him.
  - He gives them their final exam in Discipleship 101 with the questions in 8.27-30.
  - They pass the test and then without a break he begins Discipleship 201 in 8.31-32

## Even for the childlike new truth is usually hard to accept...

- Peter immediately pushes against this new truth like most of us do when we encounter something new. Peter's just confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Chose One of God. To him, this meant Jesus would establish an earthly Kingdom and defeat all who opposed Him. This was the cultural belief of the day. Therefore, he reacts violently against it. He chastises Jesus!
- We do the same thing when we don't like the feel or sound of something God is bringing into our lives. We resist and reject this new thing. Our spiritual muscle memory is being challenged and it is not flexing. In fact, we try to rebuke it away.
  - My experience in learning how to freestyle swim. I knew how to swim, but I didn't really know how to swim. I am amazed at all the different nuances and how easily my mind and body wants to revert back to the old pattern. It is a mindshift.
  - As God begins doing something new in our lives and is stretching us into new areas, the tendency is to resist aggressively or passively and not gain the full benefit of the work.
  - In fact, we might even say that it could not be God's will. Peter
- Appl - What are the new things you are encountering and/or resisting? Good or bad; challenges or setback; opportunities or losses

## Because we are filled with truth and error,

- I believe this is why Jesus told them not to tell anyone – 8.30. They had an incomplete understanding of what it meant that He was the Messiah. They were thinking King and Jesus tells them – 8.31 – it's Suffering Servant. He has to clarify what Messiah means b/c it isn't the same as what they think it means.

- He then clarifies what it means to be a follower of His. They thought it meant glory and power and Jesus taught it was death to self and possible loss of life. It like he says, “Look guys, you have this all wrong! It’s not what you think!!”
- Honestly, they thought Jesus as the Messiah meant this and their role with him meant that and Jesus puts on the brakes and turns the thing to a whole different direction. They didn’t have the benefit of knowing the end of the story as we do and if we had been them we would have thought the same.
- Peter had in mind in the things of the earth inspired by Satan – 8.33. He was convinced his view was right and challenges Jesus. He just made an “A” at the Discipleship 101 Final Exam and now he fails the first pop quiz in Discipleship 201 and he’s arguing with the expert teacher over the subject matter.
  - Peter saw Jesus building a castle for his throne, while Jesus was building a home for his own.
- Appl - What is true of Peter is true of all of us. We are filled with both truth and error; the gospel and gossip; facts and fiction;
  - Mt.13 – the parable of the wheat and tares is true of the stuff sown into our lives from family of origin, childhood, school, culture, life experiences, and even our understanding of the Bible.,
- Don’t be discouraged by this. All children are filled with truth and lies, facts and fantasies and they are humble enough to change when challenged with the truth.
  - I used to think I needed to get it all right and to have it all straightened out. I would study to learn and then study to defend. Then I began to realize, I am like an ant trying to figure out the intricacies of a blue whale. Therefore, it’s okay to say I don’t understand it all or I might be wrong
  - Don’t be discouraged by the duplicity and don’t think so highly of your opinions.
- Jesus is not exasperated by our immaturity. He has us in His classroom for eternity, so He knows you will eventually get it right.
- Humility is a key in advancing in childlikeness. Seeing the error and doing the work to replace it with truth.
  - HER and seeing the current of “cut offs” course through my family.

## **So, repetition is key to lasting change,**

- 8.31-32; 9.9f, 30-32; 10.32-34
- What do good teachers do to communicate truth? They layer things. They hit a truth hard and then they repeat it many times so that it is ingrained in the learners thinking. Like learning how to write cursively. It took constant repetition. They hit a truth from many different angles, so it is established in us.
  - He tells them he will “rise from the dead” and he shows Peter, James & John what his glorified body looks in Mark 9.
- The healing of the blind man in 8.22-26 is a great example of how Jesus grows us into mature childlikeness. Jesus prays twice and it is a gradual healing.
  - He does the same for us. He punctuates a truth possibly with a startling event or a phrase or concept or an observation and then he layers. It is a repetitive
  - My revelation in EHR about not being my true self in some friendships or conversations. I was being a false witness about myself. I was pretending to be one thing while another thing was going off inside of me.

- Appl – what is the thing the Lord continues to highlight to you – truth, problem (including health problems), insights, finances, relationships, the type of people – my ptsd study and how it helped me with others and myself - , or situations you continue to encounter. This is possibly where the Lord wants you to mature into childlikeness.
  - Ill - Abraham’s blessing message and how I heard that from four other sources as the Lord was showing me.

### **And so is asking questions.**

- Peter’s statements
  - One reveals his arrogance – 8.32. He thought he knew better. He thought he knew what the role of the Messiah was supposed to be and how he, Peter, fit into the Messiah’s leadership.
  - One reveals his immaturity – 9.5-6. He’s that guy who jabbars away when they are scared. He doesn’t know what to say, so he says too much.
  - Too many of us make statements when we need to be asking questions.
- The best students are the ones who ask questions not the ones who think they already know it all. They are looking around the edges. We need to ask more questions rather than make more statements.
- When things don’t begin lining up or they become uncomfortable or I’m puzzled about what something may mean or how I am responding, I need to ask questions rather than just assuming I know.
  - We miss with our assumptions.

### **Finally, always remember the teacher really likes you!**

- 8.33 – strong rebuke
- Prov.27.5-6. A rebuke from the Lord or from a friend is a sign of affection.
- 2 Tim.4 – says the word is given to rebuke and correct us.
- Heb.12 tells us the God corrects those he loves.
- His rebukes and corrections are indications of his love, just as our helpful rebukes and corrections are indications of our love for our children.
  - We can easily delude ourselves over time when we don’t have fresh voices or truth coming into our lives. We need people challenging us
- He is incredibly patient and he really delights in the growth of his children.
  - Just like any healthy parent enjoys seeing his child grow.
- When I come to know His heart then I am not bewildered by His ways. When I come to know his heart then I don’t need to know all the details of everything.

### **Conclusion**

Even for the childlike new truth is usually hard to accept because we are filled with truth and error, so repetition is key to lasting change as is asking question. Finally, always remember the teacher really likes you.