

# Mark: The Mysterious Messiah

Week 17: Mark 8:34-9:10

**Introductory Exercise:** Why do governments keep secrets?

Immediately after Jesus has rebuked Peter for trying to dictate the terms of his Messianic kingship, whom does Jesus address with his next teaching? What impact does this composite audience have on what Jesus says next? What does Jesus warn against forfeiting in your translation of Mark 8:36? Does your translation use the same word or something different in 8:35? What does the word *psyche* come to mean in this address by Jesus, and how does Jesus use the subtleties of his own day's vocabulary to make his point richer?

Why does Jesus speak of shame rather than of fear in Mark 8:38? What is potentially shameful about the words of Jesus, and how does his choice of this word rather than that affect the warning that he gives his disciples and the crowd?

In Mark 9:1, what does Jesus say about the kingdom that is emerging into the world? Given that most scholarship places the composition of Mark a full generation after Jesus dies and rises again (and therefore after the Jewish Wars), what reality does Mark get across here by including this saying of Jesus?

When Jesus becomes metamorphosed (or the more common English translation, "transfigured," what Old Testament story echoes? What honor does Peter seek to present to Jesus, and what tradition does he invoke to bestow that honor?

When the voice speaks from the cloud, what do the form and the content of the speech communicate? What is the significance of the beloved son for a first-century Jew? What is the significance of the command to hear, to heed, or to listen?

Jesus once again commands silence after the metamorphosis, but he puts a time limit on the silence this time. What is that limit, and how to Jesus's most intimate disciples respond to the limit?