

# Current

## Backwards Logic

MARK 8:31-38

SESSION 7.09



### ☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Before the Session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the media listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Review the article about #Askhermore.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.

### ☐ *Introduce*

**Ask** the group how they feel about small talk. What small talk questions do you hate? Are there questions that frustrate you or do you ignore small talk questions and move on to something else?

### ☐ *Discuss*

**Say:** *At last week's Academy Awards, many actresses expressed that they were frustrated with "sexist" interviews in which their acting skills or causes were ignored and they were asked only about their fashion. Reese Witherspoon and others attempted to reframe the conversation with some "hashtag activism" that challenged the media to "ask her more." The idea is that these actresses have more to say, that their careers are about more than just their outward appearances. (Search #askhermore and share some of the examples you find.) We might wonder about what messages this brought up.*

*What does this conversation do to recognize the ways we dismiss people? Though we might scoff at celebrities complaining about some part of their luxurious lifestyle, the resistance to being identified by something surface level might be something we all understand. In this passage, Jesus challenges the disciples about the things that make them who they are.*

- Read Mark 8:31-38 out loud. Watch the *Bible Background Video*.

### ☐ *Ask*

- What is Jesus saying about identity in this passage? Is this a troubling claim for you?
- The claim in the #Askhermore campaign is that these actresses are more than the appearance they present. What appearance do you present in your world? If

you present a certain "identity," what is it based on? Does that appearance capture the whole you?

- One tweet said, "Red carpet reporters should change the line "What are you wearing?" to "What do you care about?" Is this the kind of shift we hear in this passage with the disciples?
- If there is "more" to ask of each other as we "lose" some things in our lives to gain abundant life, what is that? What's the "more" that we might ask one another?
- What if this idea - ask them more - shaped our worship experiences? What about our Bible studies and our gatherings? What might change about those experiences? What "more" would we be challenged with? What might have to change?
- How is Jesus asking "more" of you? More than what?

Pray together end the session.

*By Erin Hall*

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