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# grow in discipleship – the universal question – 03/22/18

**THE UNIVERSAL QUESTION**

Jesus asks Peter the universal question everyone must ultimately answer in Mark 8:29, Who do you say that I am? Peter gives a good response, You are the Christ. At this point Jesus tells those present to tell no one. The Gospel of Mark pivots at this point from eight chapters on who Jesus is to the following story about why Jesus came - His mission. Once Peter hears of Jesus' mission Peter rebukes Jesus. You see the mission involves denying of self, suffering and being killed ... not something the disciples want to partake in. When Jesus was healing the sick, casting out demons and straightening out the religious leaders it was a wonderful adventure, though puzzling. Now things have changed. It is going to cost them to be His disciples. He stated the matter plainly. This wasn't in a parable. It was for all to hear ... If anyone wishes to come after me, follow me, be my disciple, then it will cost you everything. Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow. And Oh, by the way ... I am going to rise from the dead, demonstrating that you will too! A tough mission but what a wonderful reward.

Every disciple must be instructed in who Jesus is. Have them verbally state who Jesus is. This will help you know where they might be lacking in their understanding. They must make a decision to follow, suffer, deny. They must understand the cost. But, don't leave out the reward.