

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 8:22-9:1 ([click to open link](#))

REFLECT:

The opening theme of the old comedy “WKRP in Cincinnati” features someone turning the knob on their car radio (yes, that’s how old the show is) going through stations. At one point you hear a woman’s voice in an ad, “...they’re solid plastic, so don’t settle for imitation” and the person twists the knob to the next channel and a song, then news comes on the radio. Who would have guessed “WKRP” would give us the antithesis of the life Jesus calls us to live.

In a world filled with those advertising genuine plastic and a constant yapping through our cellphones that amounts to “Pick me! Pick me!” Jesus performed miracles and then did what? Sent the man home directly to his village. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$200 and definitely do NOT Tweet, Post, Insta or anything else. Jesus’s message: Accept what I give you and be thankful. Jesus wanted us to know him, to be in relationship with God on a one-to-one basis not from something trending.

When he asked the disciples, “Who do you say I am?” and they answered correctly his message was not to tell anyone. He knew, like the disembodied hand in the WKRP opening, we’re constantly looking for something pleasing to us. We rattle through channels, searching the ether for what it is we think we need only to find that until we know ourselves, who we are and who we follow; we’ll never find what we’re looking for. Because what we’re looking for runs counter to what the world says. Peter and the disciples found that out.

I don’t know what Peter said to Jesus after Jesus predicted his own death but perhaps it went something like, “Jesus, don’t talk that way! What will the rest of the guys think? And if you go around talking about your own death in public, people are going to think you’re some kind of kook” (yeah, the word “kook” has been around that long). No wonder Jesus got ticked. He told the 12 and then he told the crowd. Either give up your life and follow me or in the end, you’ll lose your life. Deny me now and be denied later. Affirm me now and be affirmed after this life. Clearly, Jesus was no AM station. What He preached was more of a Sirius XM variety.

There is a cost to His message. We must be intentional and discerning in our listening, not surfing willy-nilly through channels. We’re not saddled with a timeline of sharing His message. In fact, often we’re best served accepting his love and our salvation and returning to our home, our family and our community to tell those we know. Because with His gift we’re so much more than genuine plastic.

RESPOND:

Consider Jesus’ message to the blind man. Are you at the place in your walk with Him where you should accept Him and return home? If you are, that’s ok. Are you like the disciples? Followers but perhaps not ready to spread the good news? Do you need to strengthen and deepen your relationship? That’s ok too. Or do you need to hear that accepting Jesus means giving up this life for the life he offers both now and in eternity? That’s valid also. Remember, wherever you are, God is there with you. All you need do is accept Him, recognize Him and finally give your life to Him.