

A Note from the Pastor

Jesus spent the first portion teaching in the farming communities and fishing villages of Galilee. He taught of God's grace and mercy toward sinners. He challenged his listeners live that grace and forgiveness in their own lives. He showed the people the power of God through healings and other miracles.

In the 8th Chapter of Mark that all changes. Jesus is with his disciples in Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee. There he asks the disciples, "*Who do men say that I am?*" and "*Who do you say that I am?*" To which Peter answers, "*You are the Christ!*"

From that moment on everything changes. Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem; his journey to the cross. As Jesus travels southward he begins to teach his disciples about discipleship. Jesus tells them, "*If any one would follow me, let him deny themselves and take up the cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.*"

Our journey to Jerusalem, our journey to the cross began on February 18 as we observed Ash Wednesday. Our journey continues throughout the remainder of February through the end of March. As we get closer to joining Jesus at the cross we will join with Jesus on his triumphant entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, March 29; and our Lord's final meal and Last Supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, April 2. Our journey to the cross culminates on Good Friday, April 3, at which our Lord gave his life for the sins of the world and you and me.

Will you join our Lord on his journey to the cross? Will you hear his words of discipleship? Will you follow him all the way to the cross? Will you follow your Lord as he prepares to give the world the greatest gift of love the world will ever receive?

Will you join **your** Lord on his journey?

Will you take up **your** own cross and follow him?

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

