

(In preparation for gathered worship, April 5, 2009)

Mark 1:24-26, 34, 44; 3:11-12, 5:43; 7:36; 8:30; 9:30
5th April 2009

So many times in the gospel of Mark Jesus warns people not to tell others who he is. It seems he wants to conceal his identity.

Why does he want to keep this a secret? It seems odd to us. But we can be sure he has good reason.

Read the passages above and work through the following questions.

- 1) It is so often right after Jesus performs a miracle that he enjoins secrecy. Why?

- 2) Perhaps there is still something about Jesus that we, too, ought to keep secret? What is it?

- 3) At some point, Jesus will encourage his followers to speak boldly about him. When does that point arrive?

- 4) Are you tempted at times to create a definition of Jesus that agrees with your own desires and interests, instead of letting Jesus define himself and humbly embracing him for what he says he is? Explain.