



*Connect with God.  
Connect with each other.  
Connect with the community.*

## FRESH START: Are You Sure You're Ready for This?

2/2/25 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Mark 8:27-38



### A Fresh Start Story

An angry reader, named Joey, once stormed into a newspaper office, waving the current edition and demanding to see the writer of the obituary column. He had seen his own name in the obituaries! Furious, he shouted, "I am very much alive! I demand an immediate retraction!" The reporter calmly replied, "I never retract a story. But here's what I'll do—I'll put you in the birth column and give you a fresh start!"

### What Do We Mean by "Fresh Start"?

A fresh start means "a complete change in your way of life, especially after failure or hardship." It is like having a clean slate—where past failures no longer define us.

As we dive deep into the Gospel of Mark, let us answer 3 of the Most Important Questions of our lifetime:

- 1) Who is Jesus to you?
- 2) What is a true disciple?
- 3) Are You Sure You're Up for This?



### Who is Jesus to you?

The context here was right after Jesus raised a dead girl, healed a bleeding woman, fed the 5,000, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am? and they said: John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. "But what about you, Who do you say I am?"

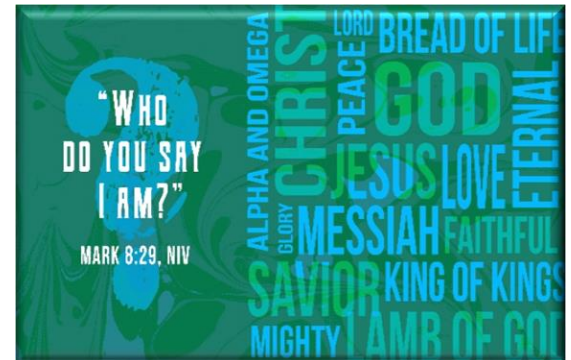
Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

One of the most important questions in our life is: Who is Jesus to you?

Peter, like many others, believed the Messiah would be a victorious king. But in Mark 8, Jesus flips the understanding of who the Messiah is, he spoke of suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection instead of gaining riches or power over another or even being great. Jesus said if you want to be great, you must be a servant first.

No one would have expected a Messiah to be rejected and killed by the religious leaders, let alone rise from the dead; nor would anyone have expected that the people's salvation would come this way. Why? Because God's way of offering a fresh start was through the cross—Through love, mercy, and grace. Not through human strength, power, or comfort. This new kind of "suffering servant" Messiah was offering a very big picture of "fresh start." It was a fresh start God's way, not the human way, which made it difficult for Peter to understand (v. 32-33).

~ Sermon cont'd on pg. 4



February 9th, 2025

9:15AM ~ Sunday school

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Pastor Nova & Mindy McIntosh  
from Safe Berks

Scripture: Psalm 99 & Micah 6:8

*What Does the Lord Require of  
You?*



BRING A CAN OF SOUP with you to church on Super Bowl Sunday...it's the last day for the Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Please place your donation(s) on the table in the Gathering Area.



**Restarting the "Not by Choice"  
Widow/Widower Group  
...but ALL ARE INVITED!**

**First lunch outing will be  
Feb. 19, 2025 ~ 11:30AM at  
LongHorn Steakhouse,  
Wyomissing**

**RSVP to Linda Chandler  
484-269-8200**



09 – Deb Bierly  
1 Hanley Ln.  
Shillington, PA 19607

11 – Dawn Fox  
2139 Reading Blvd.  
W. Lawn, PA 19609

10 – Neil Magerman  
2500 Jacob Dr.  
Sinking Spr., PA 19608

13 – Lisa Ruth  
2409 Lindale Dr.  
Reading, PA 19609

11 – Kelsey Shuman  
32 Heatherwood Ln.  
Denver, PA 17517

13 – Don Zerfoss  
878 N Maple Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522

**New Member's Class  
Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>**

[after India Sunday light refreshments]

**New Member's Join  
Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
during the 10:30AM service**



The 2025 Ash Wednesday ecumenical worship service will be hosted by Zion E.C. Church (57 N. Church St., Mohnton) on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Pastor Nova will bring the evening message; the imposition of ashes will be offered; and, a community choir will present the anthem.



**FEBRUARY MIFFLIN COMMUNITY  
FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS:**

Canned Peaches  
Canned Pineapple  
100% Juice

Canned Ravioli  
Toilet Paper  
Instant Potatoes



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** on Sat., 2/15 from 8:30-11:30AM to help with the food distribution and carrying grocery bags outside for client pick up in the parking lot. No RSVP necessary. Any amount of your time is greatly appreciated.



**INDIA SUNDAY ~ February 16th**

**Celebrating & Sharing  
the Good Shepherd Mission Trip  
during the 8AM (Praise) and 10:30AM  
(Traditional) Services.**

**Light refreshments served in the Gathering  
Area after the 10:30AM service.**

# Journey of Healing

I HAVE **HEARD** YOUR PRAYER;  
I HAVE **SEEN** YOUR TEARS.

**BEHOLD,**  
I WILL **HEAL** YOU."

2 KINGS 20 :5, ESV



**District-wide event sponsored by  
Calvary, Lincoln Mark & St. Matthew's UMCs.  
Wednesday, February 26th,  
at 7:00PM at Lincoln Park UMC**

CHANGE  
THE  
DATE

The **In It to Gather Event** that was scheduled for Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed due to icy weather. It's been **rescheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>** with lunch beginning at noon, followed by the guest speaker, and an activity.

Please RSVP, again, to the church office  
(610-777-8441 or  
[administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net](mailto:administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net))  
so that we will have a good idea of  
expected attendance.

In case of inclement weather, please tune into Channel 69 News and watch the lower scroll, and/or check our website for any worship service or meeting cancellations/delays.

They will be posted on the **ORANGE** banner at the top of the home page.

**\*\*The church office will follow the Governor Mifflin schedule for delays, early dismissals and cancellations.\*\***

## COLLECTING SODA TABS IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, BERKS, INC.

Community Connections serves young adults in our area who live with serious health challenges. In order to support other families and children who experience similar serious disability challenges and expensive medical bills, a drive to collect a world record number of soda tabs has started.

From now until Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Calvary members and friends are asked to collect soda tabs, bring them to church, and place them in the bottle on the back counter in the narthex.

The soda tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House in Central PA to support families with housing and meals while a child is receiving medical care at Hershey Medical Center.

Currently, Canada holds the world record for number of tabs collected ~ 6.2 million, with a total weight of over 5,000lbs! It takes 1,200 tabs to equal one pound.

Let's help support this worthwhile community endeavor!





~Sermon, *cont'd from pg. 1*

### **What is a true disciple?**

The Greek word for disciple is μαθητής (mathētēs). mah-thay-TAYS

- It comes from the root (manthanō), which means "to learn" or "to study."
- Mathētēs refers to a learner, student, or follower—someone who follows and adheres to the teachings of a master or teacher.

Jesus tells us in the gospel of Mark: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

A true Christian disciple of Jesus Christ must first die to self to be alive; the way of the cross is upside down. We should be dead outside (our own self) and Jesus lives inside us.

*How alive are we as a disciple? And how dead are we as a person.*

Galatians 2:20- Apostle Paul said: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

We believe that when we were baptized in water, we become Christians.

But are we Christ's disciple? To be Christ's disciple is not just about believing in Him—it's about following Him, no matter the cost.

### **Are You Sure You're Up for This?**

Jesus' teachings present us with a clear and serious decision to make: *Are You Sure You're Up for This?*

Let's pause for a moment and let these words sink in:

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Are you willing to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him?

Following Jesus is one step at a time, it does not happen overnight. Following Jesus is not only being His student but also His Soldier, we are always in the battlefield. Soldiers in the field of battle risk personal danger and death to help a fellow soldier. They are so focused on getting their buddy to safety that they disregard personal danger to themselves.

So, these words of Jesus might be rephrased in this manner:

'If any would be my disciple, let them become so wrapped up in doing the will of God, so taken up with concern for others, they forget about themselves.

'For the ones who live only for themselves will miss life altogether, and those who lose their lives in their concern for others, in doing God's will, will find fulfillment and satisfaction in life, which is eternal life.

Being God's soldiers does not mean that we will always win. There will be days that we will fail, we will lose, and life will not be easy or good. But whatever our situation is does not change who God is and what Jesus did on the cross.

Jesus is offering us a fresh start today. But a fresh start requires courage, commitment, and daily surrender.

To follow Jesus means: choosing faith over fear, choosing obedience over comfort, and choosing sacrifice over selfishness. Jesus is inviting us to have a fresh start today. Are you ready to accept His invitation?

Taking up our cross is not just about suffering; it's about finding real life in Christ. It will cost us. But it will be worth it.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### **Any Volunteers for the Calvary Rapid Response Team?**

Are you BLS/CPR certified? Would you like to be? Here are ways you can certify On-Line and join our team:

- 1) American Heart Association website
- 2) American Red Cross website
- 3) American Academy of CPR & First Aid Adult/Child/Infant & AED
- 4) National CPR Foundation; and,
- 5) protrainings.com

Call or Text  
Gloria Hutzell  
Health & Wellness  
C 610-568-0678

