

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Luke 9:18-20. What was the context of Jesus asking his questions of the disciples- ie what was he doing immediately before asking them his big questions?
2. Read Luke 9:21-22. Why do you think Jesus counselled the disciples to not tell anyone? What did he say was his destiny as the Messiah?
3. Read Luke 9:23-27. What did Jesus say his disciples would have to do?
4. Read Luke 9:23-27. What did Jesus say would be the outcome of disciples being ashamed of him?

B. Meditation & application

5. Jesus spent time in prayer with his disciples before asking them the big question of who he was in the public eye and in their own perception. How do you think revelation and prayer are connected if they are?
6. What about Jesus messianic mandate would have been surprising to the disciples? What is the inevitable outcome of following a crucified messiah?
7. How have you been tempted to be ashamed of your faith in Christ? How could you grow your capacity to have courage in the face of temptation towards shame about your faith in the future?
8. In what ways is Jesus calling you to deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus? What do you need to put off in your life right now?

A Prayer: Heavenly Father- we praise you for your Son the Messiah. We thank you that he was willing to embrace the way of the cross to redeem us. Help us to look to him and to put to death the sinful nature in our lives. In Jesus Name- Amen.