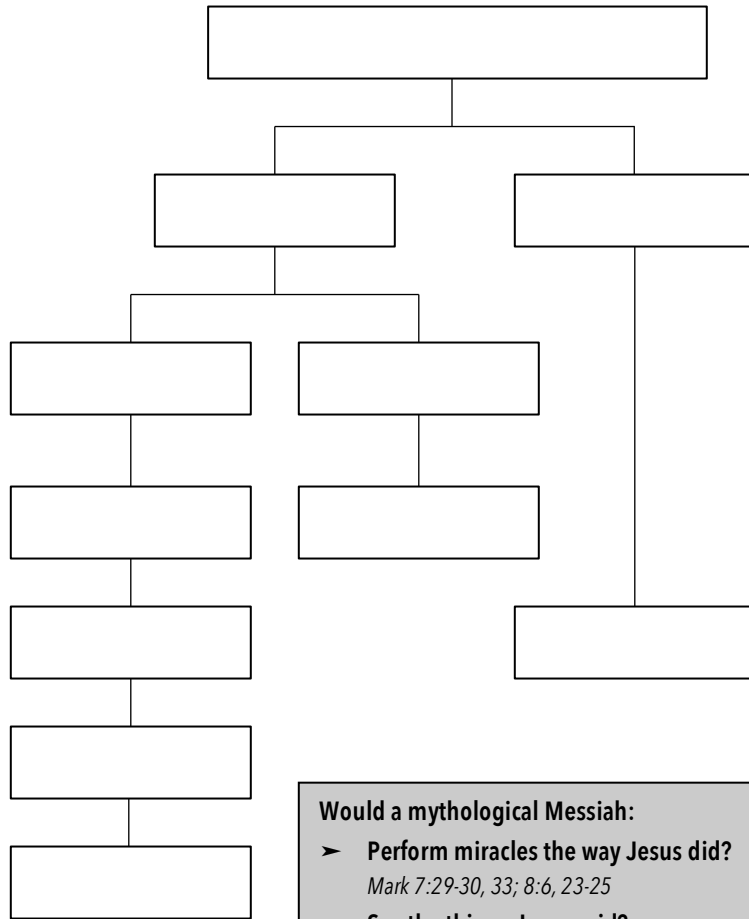


STRANGER THAN FICTION

MARK 7:24—8:30



Would a mythological Messiah:

- **Perform miracles the way Jesus did?**
Mark 7:29-30, 33; 8:6, 23-25
- **Say the things Jesus said?**
Mark 7:27; 8:12
- **Shun publicity like Jesus did?**
Mark 7:24, 31, 36; 8:9-10, 13, 26, 30

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

1. If someone were to ask you, "How do you know Christianity is true?", what would you say?
2. Read Mark 7:24–8:30. Does Mark's portrayal of the Messiah read more like fiction or history to you? Why?
3. Do you agree with the logic of the argument that Jesus must be a liar, insane or the Messiah? If so, why do you think so many people opt to label Jesus nothing more than a good moral teacher? If you disagree with the logic of this argument, what are its flaws?
4. How would you respond to someone who says, "You can't trust what the gospels say about Jesus"?
5. Read John 6:44 and 1 Peter 3:15. Do you think we should try to persuade skeptics of the reasonableness of our faith? Why or why not? On a scale from 0 to 10, how prepared are you, right now, to discuss the factual basis for faith in Jesus Christ?