

# The Gospel of Mark

Part 13: Two Questions

Mark 8:34-38 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • November 2, 2018

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## Two questions face any person who would follow Jesus:

- a. Do I comprehend the depth of love it took to pay the penalty for my sin?
- b. Have I realized my life is no longer my own and God has a specific plan for my life?

In this passage Jesus lays out the requirements to be a true disciple. We do not earn Heaven by accomplishing these requirements, but as a true follower, these requirements will become our lifestyle.

Satan promises you glory, but in the end, you receive suffering. God promises you suffering, but in the end, that suffering is transformed into glory. Waren Wiersbe

## Jesus wants all we have. (vv.34-35)

**Mark 8:34–35** *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "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.*

Denying self is not the same as self-denial.

This once-for-all dedication is followed by a daily "dying to self" as we take up the cross and follow Him.

Let us not be deterred from Christ's service by fear of the cross.

**Philippians 4:13** *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

## Jesus wants to save our souls. (vv. 36-37)

**Mark 8:36–37** *What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?*

Which do I believe is more valuable my body or my soul ?

How does my life reflect this value ?

From the human point of view, we are losing ourselves, but from the divine perspective, we are finding ourselves.

## Jesus wants our trust. (v. 38)

**Mark 8:38** *"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

To be ashamed of Jesus is to reject Him.

The power of ridicule is amazing as it leads to bondage in which Christians live to the opinion of the world.

To lose yourself is not an act of desperation; it is an act of devotion.

## Take this with you...

We are not motivated to follow Christ by the promise of Heaven and paradise.

Heaven and paradise are a free gift. (Eph 2:8-9)

We were bought with a price.

We are motivated to follow God because we've come to realize we owe a debt to Him and our lives are no longer our own.

We obey Him because we love Him. (John 14:21)

These words ought to ring in our ears like a trumpet, every morning when we awake, and every night when we lie down.