

Scripture this week:

Mark 8:31-38

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Losing to Gain: The Great Exchange

Mark 8:31-38

Todd Chapman - March 10, 2019

Jesus clarifies what the Christ looks like because the people had the wrong idea. Then, he more fully describes the essence of faith.

Jesus the Christ must die.

Jesus the Christ must be followed.

Pre-Life Group Study Questions:

Notes:

Mark 8:31-38

What does the text mean?

1. Summarize last week's text (7:24-8:30). Jesus foretells his death and resurrection to the disciples for the first time in 8:31-33. Why does he teach them this now?
2. In v. 31 the word "must" takes control of the sentence. What does this tell us about Jesus' purpose for coming to earth?
3. What does Peter's action in v. 32 tell us about his understanding of Jesus' role as "the Christ?" Why does Jesus rebuke Peter?
4. Why do you think Mark includes the detail of "turning and seeing his disciples" at the beginning of v. 33?
5. Summarize Jesus' teachings in vv. 34-38. Who is Jesus speaking to now? What is the connection to his rebuke of Peter?
6. In vv. 34-35, what is the reward offered by Jesus give for denying self, taking up one's cross, and following him?
7. Jesus asks two rhetorical questions – what do they communicate?
8. How would you paraphrase Mark's big idea in 8:31-38?

How does it apply?

1. What is your emotional response when you read about denying yourself, taking up your cross, and losing your life? Sad? Happy? Afraid? Relieved? And why?
2. What does it look like to lose our lives for Jesus' sake in our community? To deny ourselves and take up our cross? Is this a one-time action or a lifelong process? Explain.
3. What would it feel like to be part of a larger community who has chosen to lose their lives for Jesus' sake?
4. Without minimizing that there can be things that feel like costs for following Jesus, how do we help one another remain focused on the rewards?