**The Cost of Discipleship Mark 8:34-9:1 (6/19/16)**

***How can you know that you are a true follower of Christ?***

**1. The Process of Following Christ (8:34)**

A. Deny Yourself: We must turn from our sin and self-effort, letting go of our identity rooted in abilities or accomplishments.

* We must recognize that we are spiritually bankrupt and what we need more than anything is Christ and his forgiveness.

B. Take Up Your Cross: Being a disciple means loving Jesus so deeply and finding him so precious that no sacrifice is too great.

* We submit to Christ’s rule and devote ourselves to his purposes, no matter what suffering that might entail.

C. Follow Christ: When we trust and treasure Christ it should transform our thinking and behavior.

**2. The Priority of Following Christ (8:25-9:1)**

A. You Can’t Save Your Life: We assume we find our identity by achieving and accumulating but God offers a new identity by his grace and through his forgiveness.

B. You Shouldn’t Trade Your Life: There is nothing that this world can offer that compares to God’s offer of salvation.

C. Danger of Cultural Compromise: We may be tempted to compromise or conceal our faith but our love for Christ should give us courage to stand for him.

You are a follower of Christ when you lay down your sin and self-effort, love and submit to Christ even when it is hard, and follow him in obedience with an eternal perspective.

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* Necessary because of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, unconditional love
* Necessary because God’s justice demands \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Necessary because our best is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Peter’s Problem: Whenever a disciple attempts to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God rather than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus they will oppose his purposes and pursue their own.

* The way of Satan is to offer a path to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, promising the crown of power without the cross of pain.

Jesus is the promised King whose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is necessary for us to live. He came not to bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but to bear it.

**Peter’s Confession of Christ Mark 8:27-33 (6/12/16)**

***What do we learn here about the person and purpose of Christ?***

**1. The Person of Christ** (v.27-30)

A. The Opinion of the Crowd: They thought that Jesus was a continuation of the prophets rather than the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Who do you say I am?: This is the most important question we will ever face and our answer has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* It requires us to decide for ourselves what we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* It has an objectively \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer
* Our response reveals our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C. You are the Christ: Jesus is the promised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God who had come to save his people.

* The disciples begin to understand Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrate faith in Him. They are slowly beginning to see.

**2. The Purpose of Christ** (v.31-33)

A. Shifting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Jesus begins teaching them about the necessity of his suffering and death in Jerusalem.

* Necessary because of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, unconditional love
* Necessary because God’s justice demands \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Necessary because our best is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Discussion Questions**

* What are some questions that people consider to be really important to answer in life? What makes them important? How does the question: “Who is Christ” affect our answer to every other question?
* Why was it significant that Jesus takes the disciples to Caesarea Philippi? What was this city known for? What are some social and religious influences that could become substitute saviors that we look to for hope and power?
* Why does Jesus begin with the opinion and conclusion of the crowds? What did they believe about Jesus? In what ways were they right and how were they wrong?
* What are some of the answers people today might give to the question “Who is Jesus?” How does our answer have eternal implications? What influences in our lives might prevent us from answering this question for ourselves? How can we know the answer to this question objectively when so many people have different opinions? How does our answer to this question reveal our hearts?
* What did it mean to the disciples for Jesus to be the Christ or Messiah? What did they expect him to be and do? According to Matthew 16:17, what was necessary for Peter to come to this conclusion? Read John 6:65 and 1 Corinthians 12:3. What does this tell us about how people come to place their faith in Christ? How should that affect our evangelism?
* What are some of the reasons that it was necessary for Christ to suffer and die? What does this tell us about God’s character and our own?
* Why does Peter object so strongly to Jesus’ teaching on suffering? What are some ways we might play God rather than obey God in our lives? Why does Satan always offer the crown without a cross? What is the great danger in that for us? Read 1 Peter 2:21-22. How is God calling you to live this out?

**Next Week: The Way of the Cross Mark 8:34-9:1**

**Discussion Questions**

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**Next Week: The Way of the Cross Mark 8:34-9:1**

**Peter’s Confession of Christ Mark 8:27-33 (6/12/16)**

***What do we learn here about the person and purpose of Christ?***

**Setting**: Jesus bring them to Caesarea Philippi where religious and political figures were worshipped as a source of hope and power.

**1. The Person of Christ** (v.27-30)

A. The Opinion of the Crowd: They thought that Jesus was a continuation of the prophets rather than the culmination.

B. Who do you say I am?: This is the most important question we will every face and our answer has eternal implications.

* It requires us to decide for ourselves what we believe
* It has an objectively true answer
* Our response reveals our heart

C. You are the Christ: Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Son of God who had come to save his people.

* The disciples begin to understand Christ’s identity and demonstrate faith in Him. They are slowly beginning to see.

**2. The Purpose of Christ** (v.30-33)

A. Shifting Expectations: Jesus begins teaching them about the necessity of his suffering and death in Jerusalem.

* Necessary because of God’s radical, unconditional love
* Necessary because God’s justice demands judgment
* Necessary because our best is not good enough

B. Peter’s Problem: Whenever a disciple attempts to play God rather than follow Jesus they will oppose his purposes and pursue their own.

* The way of Satan is to offer a path to glory without suffering, promising the crown of power without the cross of pain.

Jesus is the promised King whose death is necessary for us to live. He came not to bring judgment but to bear it.