



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark **PART 29 - 8:34-38**

The Call to True Discipleship

READ: Mark 8:34 AND Luke 9:23–25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Jesus' invitation—"If anyone would come after me"—reveal about who is welcome to follow Him?
- 2) Why is denying ourselves often misunderstood, and what does genuine self-denial look like in daily life?
- 3) How does Jesus' command to take up our cross differ from the way modern culture uses that phrase?
- 4) Pastor G said, "Discipleship is not a special class of Christianity; it IS Christianity." What does that statement challenge in the way many people view faith today?

The Paradox of the Cross

READ: Mark 8:35 AND Philippians 3:7–8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) How does Jesus redefine "saving" and "losing" life, and what does that look like practically for us?
 - 2) Why do you think surrender is so central to spiritual maturity?
 - 3) In what ways does Paul's perspective in Philippians 3 help us interpret Jesus' teaching here?
 - 4) Pastor G said, "The path of the Messiah becomes the pattern for the disciple."
- How does seeing Jesus' suffering and surrender shape how you handle your own trials?

Eternal Profit and Loss

READ: Mark 8:36–37 AND Psalm 49:6–9, 15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Jesus mean when He asks, "What good is it to gain the whole world and forfeit your soul?"
- 2) How does our culture measure success differently than Jesus does?
- 3) What emotions or thoughts arise when you consider that no earthly wealth can ransom a single soul?
- 4) Pastor G said, "Jesus is asserting that one human soul outweighs the rest of the entire created order of the universe." How might believing that truth change the way we see other people—or ourselves?

Standing with Christ to the End

READ: Mark 8:38 AND Romans 1:16–17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why does Jesus tie being "ashamed" of Him to our future standing before the Father?
- 2) What are some modern pressures that tempt believers to hide or downplay their faith?
- 3) How can we cultivate courage and consistency in confessing Christ openly?
- 4) Pastor G said, "You can't keep what you won't surrender to Him, and you will never lose what you give to Him." What would it look like for you personally to live out that truth this week?