

A Pyrrhic Victory
Mark 8:31-38

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I. His cross. Mark 8:31

These Disciples missed what a lot of the Jews still miss today: the Messiah first came as a _____ Servant to deal with our sin issue; before He will come back as the conquering King.

- **Zechariah 12:10(b) then they will look on ___ whom they _____.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. NKJV

“Decent Roman citizens shouldn’t speak of the cross because it was unfit for them to even ponder that kind of _____ death.” (Cicero)

II. Peter’s challenge. Mark 8:32-33

Peter was saying, *“Jesus, You just told me I was right by saying You are the Christ, and Your Father in heaven showed me that truth about You. So You are the conquering King and _____.”*

- Jesus was not calling Peter, Satan. Jesus is proclaiming that the origin of Peter’s statement comes from the philosophy of _____.

The reason this suggestion from Peter was evil was ultimately shown at the cross, where Jesus won and Satan lost. _____ was paid for with the precious blood of Jesus Christ at Calvary.

III. Our cross. Mark 8:34-35

Jesus wants His followers to pursue Him with the same passion they would pursue someone romantically; a pursuit that should consume their _____, their resources, and their energy.

- *“In every Christian’s heart there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross. If he _____ the cross he remains on the throne.”* (A. W. Tozer)

The word **“follow”**, in the tense it is written, means to continually **follow** in a specific _____; following a specific person.

IV. Our gain. Mark 8:36-38

Jesus would not _____ Himself with those who did not identify with Him; His teachings, His suffering, His rejection, and His death. **Mark 8:38**

- *“The taking up of the cross involves the _____ submission of your will to God.”* (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

“As Jesus pointed out, ultimately the man who loses his own soul in the process of gaining the whole world is exchanging his future glory for a _____ reward”. (Walvoord)

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 8:31**. Why do you think Jesus waited until that time to talk about the cross? Talk about the significance and the odds against, Jesus fulfilling over 300 Old Testament prophecies.
Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 22:1-13, Matthew 27
2. Read **Mark 8:32-33**. Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him for the things He was showing to his disciples. What was Jesus’ response to Peter’s rebuke? Why do you think Jesus told Peter that he was an offense to Him?
Matthew 16:16-17, 1 Peter 2:8, Galatians 5:11
3. Peter may have thought he was doing well telling Jesus not to die. Discuss times where well meaning people suggest things that are actually outside of the will of God.
Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 3:5-6, Acts 22:4-5
4. Read **Mark 8:34-35**. The person who wants to save his life must lose it. The person who loses his life for Jesus’ sake will find it. How do you resolve this paradox? Discuss the meaning of self sacrifice.
Philippians 2:5-8, Luke 22:42, Ephesians 2:1-2, Galatians 2:20
5. Read **Mark 8:36-38**. What value does Jesus put on a man’s soul? What price did God pay to redeem your soul?
Psalm 49:6-9, 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, John 3:16, 1 Peter 2:24, 4:1-6, 2 Peter 3:10-13
6. Read **Mark 8:38**. Jesus prophesies about His second coming. What did He say would happen when He returns in the glory of His Father with His angels?
Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Peter 1:17, Revelation 2:23