

## TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

--MARK 8:34-38—

### INTRODUCTION:

In one breath Peter had declared the Lord Jesus to be the Messiah and the Son of God and in the next breath he rebuked Him for declaring that He must suffer and be killed and then rise again. This is the backdrop to this morning's passage. Jesus had predicted His death and resurrection and in the last few verses of this chapter we have a short message of Jesus that outlines the cost of true discipleship. The passage begins with an invitation to become a true disciple of Jesus, laying out what that requires, second Jesus gives the paradox of true discipleship, and finally the eternal consequences of those who do not respond to His invitation.

#### I. THE INVITATION (Mark 8:34)

- a. The declaration by Peter that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God was an exciting moment of revelation and conviction for the disciples.
- b. Remember all this took place as they were on their way to the \_\_\_\_\_ around Caesarea Philippi.
- c. Jesus made very clear that true saving faith and true \_\_\_\_\_ is characterized by self-denial, cross-bearing, and submissive obedience.
- d. Jesus stated that the person who wanted to follow Christ first must \_\_\_\_\_ himself. (Philippians 3:4–9)
- e. Next, Jesus said that we must take up our \_\_\_\_\_, we must be cross-bearers to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. (John 15:18–21; 2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18)
- f. The third characteristic of true discipleship is loyal \_\_\_\_\_. (John 10:27; John 14:15; John 14:23b; John 15:14)
- g. It is important to note, as I did at the beginning, that self-denial, cross-bearing, and obedience are not works that we do to somehow \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.

#### II. THE PARADOX (Mark 8:35-37)

- a. Jesus used a paradox to further distinguish the nature of true \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The Lord went on by posing two rhetorical questions: “*For what does it \_\_\_\_\_ a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in \_\_\_\_\_ for his soul?*” (Mark 8:36–37, NASB95)

#### III. THE JUDGMENT (Mark 8:28)

- c. Jesus ends this message by speaking of the \_\_\_\_\_ that is coming upon those who refuse His invitation to come after Him.
- d. Each and every sinner should be utterly \_\_\_\_\_ of their own wicked thoughts, words, and actions.
- e. Jesus called the nation of Israel and His own people who were rejecting Him an adulterous and \_\_\_\_\_ generation.

### CONCLUSION:

For true disciples, the return of Christ is our blessed hope, a comforting promise that we eagerly wait to see fulfilled. While we wait for Christ to return, we are not ashamed of Jesus Christ or His words. As true disciples, having repented of our sin and self-effort, having embraced the Lord Jesus in faith. The wonderful truth is that our Savior is not ashamed of us either.

For those who reject Jesus Christ, the certainty of final judgment is a terrifying reality. On that day of judgment those who refused to abandon their sin or those who trusted in their self-righteous efforts will be irreversibly and eternally condemned to hell. But those who accepted the invitation of the gospel, and came to the Lord Jesus in humble, repentant faith—will not be put to shame, will not be condemned. Having given up this world for the sake of Christ, they will live forever in the world to come. The book of Revelation describes for us the new heavens and the new earth that are to come where we live forever with our Savior and Lord. Of these the Lord Jesus says, “*He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be His God and he will be my son.*” (Revelation 21:7, NASB95)