

The Gospel of Mark Message Series

Discussion Guide based on the morning message on March 7, 2010

Take Up Your Cross – Mark 8:27-38

Big Idea: A life that matters consists of taking up the cross to truly invest your life.

Leading the Session Helps/Discussion Questions

ICE BREAKERS

- Ask the group to brainstorm or mention from their notes key words or phrases from the message. (Here are a few: risk, cost, cross, goals, desires, living, dying, taking up your cross, a life that matters, what is most important, ...)
- Who are Biblical heroes that you can recall who displayed a willingness to suffer for the Lord?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does “taking up your cross” not mean? (persevering through difficulties) What is the correct definition of “taking up your cross”? (suffering for the cause of Jesus or incurring a cost because of Christ-like qualities.)
- How does “taking up your cross” play out in your life or work situation? Another angle on this question might be to ask, “What Christ-like qualities might cost you in your work situation? (Pick different people in the group and let the group answer this for them. For example, if they were answering the first question for me, they’d probably say that I had to move my family here to be a minister at Summit or that I’m always on call. For the second question, they might say that I have to treat people with love and compassion even when they don’t act that way. Try to mention as many practical things as possible so people can get a sense that there are opportunities to carry their cross in daily life.)
- What achievements do people associate with a life that matters? (divide them into worldly and Christian)
- Larry pointed out a significant question from the passage: “Who do you say that I am?”
 - What do people believe is your answer to that question by the way you live?
 - What characteristics would a person need to possess in order for people to believe that Jesus is the Lord of their life?
- What is the implication if a person’s attitude is “getting by” for Jesus? (Ans.- that they may not be saved.)
- Paraphrase verse 35 in your own words. How is this view accepted (or not accepted) in our culture?
- What is the difference in *spending* your days versus *investing* them?
- Complete this statement: The cross is to me. (Write answers so everyone can see.)

Application

- Evaluate what following Jesus has cost you thus far in life. Resolve to live consistently with an eternal mindset and willing to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- Work this week with an investment mindset rather than a spender mindset.