

## **MARK 8:34-9:1 WHAT IS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLER?**

### **REVIEW:**

- From the revelation and confession of Jesus being the Messiah, the anointed Son of God.
- That they were correct and blessed for receiving this revelation.
- The second revelation then is given that the Messiah must suffer, be rejected, be killed, but rise again.
- So easy to forget the positive, to major in the negative.
- **I WILL RISE AGAIN. So will we!**
- Now a third revelation comes to them; because of their connection with Christ, they too will suffer.
- Imagine being in war, led by a miraculous Captain who is never wrong, always way ahead of all his enemies, winning battle after battle, victory after victory.
- Then one day he says to his faithful troop, "we are going into the capital and there I will be taken captive, I will be tortured, and I will be killed.
- What would be your thought. What? this makes no sense, how could this be,
- Why would he say that, do that? We have never known defeat.
- Then the realization of the fact that if I am his soldier, and I am following him into this battle, I too will suffer.
- Would I follow, would you follow?
- This view of what following their Messiah would look like did not measure up in their expectations and mind.
- On the heels of this Jesus lays out the conditions of serving, of following, of being a disciple.

### **INTRO:**

- How would you define a Christian?
- (Mt), Jesus addresses these comments to; His disciples; (Mk.) to the people and the disciples, (Lk.) to all.
- Jesus called them all to come close to Him, come close and listen.
- Jesus did not demand they must do this, He brings them to a choice they must make, they must count the cost.
- **Whoever desires to come after Me!**
  
- Discipleship is not man centered it is Christ centered.
- Jesus calls His followers to a humble brokenness, a life of self-sacrifice, self-denial, suffering and absolute surrender.

## **READ MK. 8:34-9:1**

- This section of scripture can be broken down to 3 headings;
  - 1) The principle of true discipleship. Vs. 34
  - 2) The paradox of true discipleship. Vs. 35-37
  - 3) The punishment or cost of false discipleship. Vs. 38

### **THE PRINCIPLE OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP: VS. 34**

<sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

- Following their shock that the Messiah must suffer, Jesus now declares to them the terms of discipleship. They also will suffer.
  - **JN. 15:18-21**
- He does not sweet talk them into His kingdom, or to walk with Him for a day or two. This was a life discission.
- He did not hide the truth from them, He gave them the honest facts and basically told them to "count the cost."
- **Lk. 14: 25-31.**
- Here in verse 34, Jesus lays down 3 principles or conditions for true discipleship.
  - 1) The disciple must deny himself.
  - 2) He must take up his cross.
  - 3) He must follow Jesus obediently, wherever He may lead.
- Discipleship always comes with a cost. no cross, no crown.
- A disciple must first deny himself, then take up his cross, and follow Jesus.
- They all flow together; denying your self is taking up your cross, and in doing so you will be following Him.
- This is a daily taking up. (Lk. 9:23)

#### **1) Deny oneself: Self-denial.**

- To deny yourself: "to have no association with" to "disown completely", to forget one's self, loose sight of one's self and one's interests,
  - think of this of someone else
- It is used of Peter's denial of Jesus in Mk. 14,30+
- And of Christ's denial in heaven of those who have denied Him before men.
  - Lk. 12:9; But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
- the disciple must give up not only himself, but also his sin, and self-righteousness, ambitions, and agendas.
  - Phil. 1:21, For to me, to live *is* Christ

- **Gal. 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**
- **To be a good soldier one must deny himself, his ideas. To perform his duty successfully he must take up the will of his superior and continue daily to do so.**
- **He cannot do his own will his own thing.**
- **This is true of any good employee. You daily deny yourself, your will and follow the directive of your superior.**
- **But the Christian is called to a higher calling. His Masters' calling supersedes and over arches all of his other earthly callings. They are all subject to the great eternal calling of Christ.**
- **See Phil. 2:**

## **2) Take up your cross:**

- **In the first century the cross was universally understood as an instrument of execution.**
- **It was designed to prolong the agony of death for as long as possible. they were instruments of torture, humiliation, shame and execution, and it was reserved for the worst criminals and enemies of the state.**
- **Crucifixion was the chief means of execution at this time by the Roman government.**
- **It was normal procedure for the condemned person to carry the cross beam of the cross from the place of judgment to the place of execution.**
- **Crucifixions took place along public highways as gruesome reminders of the cost to disobey Rome and the Caesar's.**
- **They were to be a deterrent and warning to those who saw as they passed by**
- **The people understood what the word "cross" symbolized.**
- **There were thousands crucified during Jesus' life time and everyone was familiar with its meaning and horror.**
- **Not every believer will be called upon to be a martyr, but all are called upon to die to self.**
- **What then does taking up ones cross mean:**
- **It is the out-working of denying oneself.**
- **Living for another, following another's will, "not my will but thine."**
- **working for the cause of another, "Thy kingdom come."**
- **Taking no thought for yourself. (LK. 12:22)**
- **It is when our will crosses the will of God and we chose God's will.**
- **Jesus was basically saying, "if you follow Me, it will not all be an easy time, your wants, hopes and expectations most likely will not be met.**
- **There may be ridicule, rejections, loneliness, loss of reputation, and certainly a dying to self being on the throne of my life.**

- True conversion causes a person to view the Lord Jesus, the privilege of living for Him, and the hope of heaven as so precious that no sacrifice is too great.
  - **2 cor. 4:17. 18.**

### 3) Follow Me, Jesus: Loyal Obedience.

- To follow: to be "a follower," or "companion", here expressing "union, likeness," and "a way;" hence, "one going in the same way" to take the same road.
- The idea is not that of following behind another, but that of accompanying the other person, taking the same road that Christ takes and fellowshiping, communing with Him along that road
- It is the same verb as in Jn 10:27, My sheep hear my voice and "follow" Me.
- We can rightly call the word "obedience."
  - Jn. 8:31, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
- These 3, deny, follow, and take up are imperatives and a command to be obeyed at once. They are to be a permanent attitude and practice of life.
- Our lives are to be characterized by a habitual self-emptying, taking up of the cross and a coming after Jesus.
- The denying of self, cross bearing, and following/obedience are inherent characteristics of repentant faith and the out working of the New Birth.
- I am not my own, I belong to another.
  - 1 cor. 6:19, 20; or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body <sup>[a]</sup>and in your spirit, which are God's.

### Conclusion:

- "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>mammon.
- <sup>25</sup> "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

### **THE PARADOX OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP: VS. 35-37 (seeming contradiction)**

**<sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?**

- **If we live for ourselves, be our own masters, we will lose ourselves, our soul.**
- **If we are being preoccupied with ourselves, our needs, our way, our will, we will actually lose ourselves, destroy our selves.**
- **How does gaining the whole world cause one to lose his soul.**
- **Some of the truth here which we do not see, is the losing of one's soul is really losing the purpose, the contentment, fulfillment of life. One's soul literally becomes empty, a hollow waste land.**
- **This answers why so many people with resources lose their life. Lose their way.**
- **they try every sort of sin and anything imaginable to satisfy their souls, but nothing satisfies the eternal soul, but an eternal cause, a eternal relationship with the eternal God. A God shaped vacuum.**
- **This is part of Adam and Eve's "knowing good and evil."**

### **THE PUNISHMENT, OR LOSS OF FALSE DISCIPLESHIP: VS 38**

**<sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."**