

I. Introduction: The Gospel of Mark reveals Who Jesus is and why He came. 8:27-30.

A. Who is Jesus? 1:1-8:30

1. People underestimate Jesus.
2. Peter finally gets it: Jesus is the Christ: the Son of God. v. 29

B. What does it mean for Jesus to be the Christ? 8:31f

1. Three times Jesus predicts His death. 8:31-33 9:31-32 10:32-41
2. Each time His disciples misunderstand Him.

C. What does it mean to follow Him? 8:34-38

II. It was necessary for Jesus to bear His cross for you. 8:31-33

**A. Why was it necessary that the Son of man be rejected, suffer, die, and rise again?
v. 31-32a 9:31 10:34**

1. The Scriptures must be fulfilled. 12:10 Isa. 52:13-53:12 Ps. 22:1 118:22 Ge. 3:15
Luke 24:25-27
2. God the Father has determined the Son must suffer. Acts 2:23 Isa. 53:10
Rom. 5:18-19 Heb. 9:28 II Co. 5:21
3. Jesus fully understood His mission and undertook it willingly. 10:45 Isa. 53:10,7
John 10:17-18 4:34.
4. His resurrection declares His triumph over sin and death. v. 31c,38 Ro. 1:4 4:25
Isa. 53:10-12 Ge. 3:15 Ps. 118

**B. It is possible to confess Jesus is the Son of God while completely misunderstanding
the purpose of His coming. v. 32b-33**

1. Peter makes a colossal (devilish) error. v. 32b Isa. 55:8.
2. Why does Jesus so sternly rebuke Peter? v. 33 Mt. 4:8-10

C. Application.

1. Many today claim to respect Jesus' Person, but deny the nature of His Work.
I Cor. 1:18-25 I John 1:8-2:2 John 14:6 Acts 4:12
2. Are you willing to stand in the face of popular opinion?
3. Is the death of Jesus precious to you? I Cor. 11:26
4. We may be guilty of resisting God's plan (v. 34). I Cor. 10:11-12

III. It is necessary for you to bear your cross in following Jesus. 8:34-9:1

A. What does it mean to deny yourself? v. 34a

1. Jesus isn't merely referring to self discipline.
2. He doesn't just ask you to deny yourself some things, but that you deny your
very self: just as Jesus denied Himself for your sake. Phil. 2:3f

B. What does it mean to take up your cross? v. 34b-35 I Pe. 2:20-21

1. Cross bearing is not merely putting up with life's difficulties and inconveniences.
2. To bear your cross means to put your SELF to death. Rom. 6:11 Gal. 2:20
3. Are you totally sold out to the Lord's work?

- C. Your soul is more valuable than the entire world. v. 36-37 10:21**
- 1. People devote their lives to gaining what the world has to offer. Isa. 55:1-2**
 - 2. In so doing they lose their souls forever.**
 - 3. Are you willing to be a “loser” in the world, so you might gain heaven?**
 - 4. Jesus gave up His life to gain you.**
 - 5. What has it cost you to follow Christ?**
 - 6. What are you willing to give up for your Lord’s sake?**
- D. Is Jesus teaching salvation by works? Eph. 2:8-10**
- 1. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in the finished work of Christ alone. Eph. 2:8-9**
 - 2. Those who are truly saved follow Christ. Eph. 2:10 Phil. 1:6 Mark 10:21**
- E. Are you proud of Your Lord and of His gospel? v. 38 Rom. 1:16**

IV. Concluding applications.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How do people today fail to understand who Jesus is?**
- 2. Why is it impossible that Jesus could merely be a great teacher?**
- 3. Why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter’s objection to the cross?**
- 4. How do people today, like Peter, object to Jesus’ work?**
- 5. What does it mean to deny yourself and follow Christ?**
- 6. What does it mean to take up your cross?**
- 7. How does Jesus’ teaching about the demands of discipleship fit with the doctrine of justification by faith?**
- 8. Evaluate your own discipleship in light of this passage.**