

June 8, 2003
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Mark 8:27-38 – “Pick up your Cross”

There is a series of events that take place:

- Jesus feeds the four thousand.
- In the boat the disciples are perplexed about his comment about the “yeast of the Pharisees”
- He heals a blind man.
- Then asks an important question v 29: “But whom say ye that I am?”

This leads to some a profound teaching of the cost of following Jesus:

* Jesus talks about His death and resurrection. Peter rebukes Jesus because (he doesn’t think that is how it should go, or how he “wants it to happen). Immediately following Jesus tells him, “you do not have in mind the things of God: Then He calls the people and the disciples and gives His teaching.

KEY WORDS: (Greek)

Deny – *aparneomai* (AP-AR-NEH-OM-AHEA) –

- to deny utterly, ie. To disown, abstain.

Take – *airo* – to lift; to take up or away

- HEBREW – to expiate sin, away with, bear (up), loose

Follow – *akoloutheo* – (AK-OL-OO-THEH-O) - from (as a particle of union), and *kelenthos* (a road)

- to be in the same way with, ie. To accompany (spec. as a disciple; follow, reach.

Cross – *Stauros*

- a stake or post set-upright; ie. (spec.) a pole or cross (as an instrument of capital punishment. Fig. exposure to death. I.e. Self denial; as in the atonement of Christ.

Lose – Apollumi –

- To destroy fully (reflex, to perish, or lose) lit. or fig. – destroy, die, lose, mar
- NOTE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

– So often I think this verse translates this way in our lives:
“I want to follow Jesus but I’ll put down my cross, deny Christ and follow what I want”

Examples:

- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Mario
- David DeWitt

V38 – Adulterous – **Let us not forget our sin.**

- We are all familiar with the act of physical adultery. Let us not forget the sin of spiritual adultery. When we lust after the things of this world, or over our own selfish desires rather than placing the Lord above those things.
- **1 JOHN 2:15-17**
- **JAMES 4:4-10**

So what does this mean for us:

1. We need to examine our lives: - What are we spending our time doing. For whom is that time spent?
2. What is in the way between you and Jesus; Money, Work, Recreation, Church. Fill in the blank.
3. Have you made excuses for not picking up your cross; I’m too busy with other things, Jesus won’t forgive me again, I read my Bible, and go to Church.....
4. Does guilt keep you from coming to “the Cross” that always brings repentance to those that seek it’s forgiveness.
5. Do you not think that you are not “good” enough to be used by God?
6. Are you spiritually proud and have forgotten the filth of your sin and your daily need of the cleansing blood of Christ?

Jesus is not looking for perfect people, because there are none. You don't have to be rich, for did He not send away the rich man (Matthew 19:16-30). Look at Rahab the "harlot". All God desires is that you give yourself to Him. Truly desiring to deny yourself and consider His plans and He himself greater and bigger than ourselves.

READ : Psalm 119:1-8

Notes:

- Body of Christ- Christ is the head. Is not the brain the main source of direction for the parts of the body. So it is with Christ and the Church. We need to function in the commands of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
- Do not go to Church simply for the reasoning of "going to Church. You need to go to Church to fellowship with the family of God, and to meet with God. It seems that too often we are out the door as soon as dismissed so we can attend to our "schedule". Come to meet with Jesus, for no other reason!

Additional Scripture

- Exodus 20:1-6 – Place the Lord first.
- Deuteronomy 6:5-9 – love the Lord your God with.....
- Deuteronomy 8:1-5 – follow His commands
- Matthew 22:37-40 – The Greatest Commandment