**LET US BE DISCIPLES
Mark 8:34-38**

[**34**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-8-34/)**And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** [**35**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-8-35/) **For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.** [**36**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-8-36/) **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** [**37**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-8-37/) **Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

[**38**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Mark-8-38/) **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

**INTRO:**

**Illustration: Leadership magazine once ran a cartoon that showed a church building with a billboard in front that said:  "The LITE CHURCH: 24% fewer commitments, home of the 7.5% tithe, 15 minute sermons, 45 minute worship service; we have only 8 commandments—your choice.”
\*\*I’m afraid too many folks have that kind of relationship with the Lord.
\*\*Here are some words that defines church goers and their relationship with Christ and the Church.
1. Casual - It means occasional, coming at certain times, without regularity. This defines some church goers.
2. Convenience defines many church goers.**

**Illustration: In Washington DC on Palm Sunday one year, the city scheduled a marathon, which greatly interfered with normal traffic. The leaders of various churches were upset and made their feelings known in local papers. Many churches reported attendance down 50-70 % on that day. Why? Was it not possible to get to church on that day? No, but the race did delay traffic about 15-30 minutes and many regular church attendees were by their own admission unwilling to take the extra time and fight the traffic to get to church.**

**\*\*The faith of many is driven by convenience, and fails when it is challenged!
3. Comfort defines many church goers.**

**\*\*If the preaching of God’s Word doesn’t make you uncomfortable sometimes, then you have not heard preaching. And sometimes the Lord will want you to do something for Him that is out of your comfort zone.
\*\*This is why when some church goers get uncomfortable with the Word or with the Work, they can’t be found.
4. Costless defines many church goers.
\*\*I’ll be glad to participate as long as it doesn’t cost me anything.
Illuistration: British evangelist Gypsy Smith described 4 classes of church goers:
1. Ankle-deep - Come to one service - period.
2. Up to their knees - Sunday School and Worship Service
3. Up to their waists – Occasionally come Sunday Evening.
4. Up to their necks - They live to serve Christ, and they are the "doers."**

**5. Committed – This defines a small minority of the church.**

**\*\*You need to understand that the attitude and the actions of most people who profess to be Christians is in stark contrast to what Christ teaches!**

**\*\*Interesting to note that 269 times in the New Testament, the word disciple is used, and the word “Christian" is used only three times!
\*\*If we’re going to be what God wants us to be, then we must look at what Christ expects of his followers and what is involved in discipleship!**

**I. DISCIPLESHIP INVOLVES LEARNING
Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

**\*\*The word disciple itself means “learner.”**

**\*\*If we are disciples for Christ that means we are Pupils and Participants that learn from God and His Word!**

**\*\*Ask yourself this and test yourself about being a disciple.**

 **1. How much do you know about Christ?
 2. How knowledgeable are you about His word?
\*\*We cannot possibly call ourselves disciples in good conscience if we do not know Christ’s teachings and are not following them!**

**II. DISCIPLESHIP INVOLVES LEAVING
Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

**\*\*During the ministry of Christ, there was a large crowd that traveled with him wherever he went.  Many were just along for the ride. They listened to Christ, watched him, talked about him, but they were not disciples.
 A. We Must Follow Him with the Right Interests**

 **1. Do we follow because we’re interested in His Teachings?**

 **2. Do we follow because we’re interested in His Training?**

 **B. We Must Follow Him with the Right Involvement**

 **1. Disciples get involved in God’s Work**

 **2. Disciples get involved in God’s Will**

 **C. We Must Follow Him with the Right Intentions**

**\*\*I intend to deny myself, take up my cross and follow Him**

 **1. Even when Friends will not do the same.**

 **2. Even when Family will not do the same.**

**\*\*Self-denial is what Christ said we must do to be His disciples. How can we deny ourselves concerning God’s work when we cannot deny ourselves concerning our own wants.
\*\*If we see something we want, we get it! If we don’t have the money for it, we charge it! If we can’t afford it, we get it anyway!**

**Illustration: Many years ago, a new missionary arrived in South Korea to replace a missionary who was retiring. As the retiring missionary drove the new missionary around showing him the area of his ministry, they came upon two Koreans farming. The new missionary was shocked to see one of the men pulling the plow while the other man held the plow. Those men need a mule said the new missionary. They had a mule was the reply of the older missionary, but they sold it, and gave the money to the Lord’s work!
\*\*One preacher said that a religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing is worth nothing. Are you a disciple in name only that never denies yourself anything for the Lord’s sake or are you a disciple that denies yourself and lives by faith?**

**III. DISCIPLESHIP INVOLES LOSING
\*\*The key to understanding V-34 is to look at V-35.**

**Mark 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**

 **A. Disciples Lose Their Life For This One God!**

 **1. I don’t live to satisfy my Flesh.**

 **2. I do live to satisfy my Father.**

**\*\*When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die!
\*\*Another man said, “Blessed is the man who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose!”
\*\*William Booth, the Salvation Army founder, said that the secret of his amazing Christian life was telling the Lord “that He could have all that there is of William Booth!”**

 **B. Disciples Lose Their Life For This Only Gospel**

 **1. Disciples sacrifice so the gospel can be Shared!**

 **2. Disciples sacrifice so the gospel can be Studied!**

**\*\*Now look again at the first part of Mark 8:35 –“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it;” That can be hard to understand, but here’s a way you can understand it.**

**Illustration: There was a lifeguard on a beach who saw a drowning man. He walked into the surf but didn’t go out to rescue him. People gathered on the beach and yelled and screamed at the lifeguard to go out and rescue the drowning man. The lifeguard waded a little deeper, and kept his eye on the drowning man, but the yells and screams of the onlookers didn’t motivate him to swim out. Just when it seemed the man was going down for the last time, the lifeguard swam out with strong strokes and grabbed the man and brought him back to shore. After some spitting and coughing, the man was conscious. However, the crowd didn’t hail the lifeguard as a hero. Instead, the onlookers were angry at the lifeguard and said, "You coward! You saw he was drowning, why didn’t you go out sooner?"**

 **The lifeguard patiently explained, "You can see that he is much bigger and stronger than I am. If I had gone out sooner while he was thrashing and kicking so violently then he would have probably drowned us both!  As long as he was trying to save himself, I couldn’t save him. But when he got tired, and gave up, then that’s when I knew I could save him."**

**\*\*It is only through losing our life to Christ that we really achieve life!**

**IV. DISCIPLESHIP INVOLES LEADING
Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**

**\*\*If we are following Christ, then we will be leading others to Christ!**

 **A. It’s a Call to be a Disciple Leader**

 **1. It’s the Call of Servants**

 **2. It’s the Call of Surrender**

 **B. It’s a Command to be a Disciple Leader**

 **1. Fish for those who need the Savior**

 **2. Fish for those who need this Salvation**

 **C. It’s a Choice to be a Disciple Leader**

 **1. Chose to be a Faithful Disciple that Leads**

 **2. Chose to be a Fruitful Disciple that Leads**

 **3. Chose to be a Fishing Disciple that Leads**

**V. DISCIPLESHIP INVOLVES LOVING**

 **A. Disciples of Christ Loves Christ**

 **B. Disciples of Christ Loves Church**

**\*\*They love the preaching, the praising, and the praying; it has nothing to do with loving the program or loving the playtime!**

 **C. Disciples of Christ Loves Christians**

 **John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

**\*\*Christ sets the standard by which we shall be identified, and we shall be identified by our love for one another!
\*\*The greatest witness that we can show of the love of God is by loving each other!**

**\*\*I believe that one of the reasons why we are not making disciples as Christ commanded us to do is simply because when the world looks at us and our relationships with each other , they do not see disciples!**

**\*\*If we are going to be disciples, then we better make sure we love others and love one another!**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*So are we just church goers, Christians by title only, or true followers of Christ and living like disciples?
\*\*Are you really following Christ, or are you just along for the ride?
\*\*When this life is over and you are at the close of life, the questions will not be what you think they may be.**

 **1. It won’t be "How much have did you get while living?”
The question will be "How much did you give for Christ’s sake while living?"
2. It won’t be "How much did you win in your life?"
The question will be "How much did you lose for Christ’s sake?"
3. It won’t be "How much did you saved?"
The question will be "How much have you sacrificed?"**

**4. It won’t be "How much were you honored?"**

**The question will be "How much did you loved and served others and Christ?"**

**\*\*Will you come and make up your mind today to be a disciple for Christ?**