



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Mark Sermon Series

Supports Session 6: Followed

Sermon Title: "Following Christ" (Mark 8:31-38)

Connection to Session 6

To follow Jesus, we must listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings and allow the word of God to powerfully direct our steps.

Introduction/Opening

Peter was selected to lead the apostles and to be a rock for the coming church. But, Peter was confused when Jesus described His coming suffering and death. Jesus then clarified what it would look like to follow Him. His followers would need to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him.

Outline

1. Disciples Need Discernment

- a. Jesus began to reveal to Peter and the apostles the coming confrontation that He would face in Jerusalem. Jesus understood He would die and be resurrected in three days. He began to prepare His band of twelve for the adversity that was ahead. Preparation was necessary.
- b. Peter could not grasp what Jesus was teaching, so he began to rebuke Jesus. He took Jesus aside to have a private discussion.
- c. Peter likely had hopes of a victorious reigning Jesus reestablishing the past military superiority and economic prosperity of David and Solomon. Many in the Jewish community were anticipating a political leader.
- d. Jesus knew Peter was not grasping the larger picture of what was to come. "You are not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns" (v. 33).
- e. We must seek God to fully discern His plans.

2. Disciples Must Take up Their Crosses

- a. The plan of the Father was being revealed to Jesus. Jesus was trying to explain his role of salvation through death on the cross. Jesus also understood the victory of His coming resurrection. This plan was for Jesus to go to the cross.
- b. God reveals his plans to us through His word. In Amos 3:7 we read, “Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his counsel to his servants the prophets.”
- c. Jesus understood God’s plan. He knew it would involve suffering and pain.
- d. As Christians, we’re called to put aside our own self-serving interests and pursue God’s kingdom. That may involve suffering, religious persecution, and sacrifice.

3. Disciples Must Follow Christ

- a. When we follow Christ, we gain life. “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me and the gospel will save it” (v. 35). We find real, eternal life in Christ.
- b. By following Christ, we get to experience spiritual life. This cannot be bought or earned.
- c. Those who know Christ as Savior will one day experience life in His presence for eternity.

Conclusion

Jesus experienced opposition during His earthly ministry that led to a brutal crucifixion. He would “suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days” (v. 31). As His followers, we’re called to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.

Ken and Welda Cox live in New Boston, Texas. In 2012 Ken retired from First Baptist Church after 20 years of service. Ken has been active in prison ministry since 1995 and presently serves as interim pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Omaha, Texas. Ken and Welda have six children and nine grandchildren.

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