

Something Worse than Death

Mark 8:27-9:1

What is it that Jesus considers as worse than death?

I. Jesus lived to please the Father, not himself.

II. Jesus expects his disciples to live for him and the Gospel, not themselves.

What's worse than death is a life not fully lived for God.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there things worse than death? If so, brainstorm and list some things that people might consider as worse than death. For each, why is that?
2. What do you make of Jesus' command to his disciples to "tell no one about him" (8:30) after Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ? Why might he command this?
3. Given the context of 8:31-33, speculate a little: what might Peter have said in his rebuke of Jesus?
4. What do you think the "things of God" (8:33) refer to? What about the "things of man?"
5. Put 8:33 in your own words—what is Jesus' point here?
6. What does it mean to "deny oneself" (8:34)?
7. Read 8:35 out loud. What does this mean, in your own words?
8. Jesus asks his followers to make a tough choice. But what are the two considerations that Jesus offers to them in 8:36-38, that make this tough choice a "no-brainer?"
9. Name one concrete application in your own life of what it will look like to take your next step in living fully for God/ putting to death self-interest.
10. (Just for fun) If you saw the movie Titanic, what did you think (the first time you saw the movie) of Rose's decision to jump off the lifeboat and back onto the sinking ship?