



Home Church Discussion Questions

The Cost of Discipleship

Mark 8:27-38

I. Sermon Outline

1. Christ's disciples must embrace His truth as our truth (vv. 27-30).
2. Christ's disciples must embrace His suffering and our suffering (vv. 31-33).
3. Christ's disciples must embrace His death and our death (vv. 34-38).

II. Discussion Questions

1. Jesus asked an important question in verse 29: **“Who do you say that I am?”** How would your unbelieving friends or family answer that question? How did you answer that question before you became a Christian?
2. Is there an aspect of Jesus' life, ministry or teaching that makes you uncomfortable? What is it and why?
3. In verse 34 Jesus gives three clear requirements of what it means to be His disciple:
 - **Deny yourself:** In what ways has Jesus called you to self-denial? How do you respond to the directive to deny yourself?
 - **Take up your cross:** In what ways have you seen the 'old you,' who you were before you knew Jesus, die and the 'new you' with Jesus come to life? What is it like for you to regularly 'take up your cross' as an act of death to self?
 - **Follow Me:** In what ways has Jesus called you to follow Him in *all* aspects of life? How do you practice following Him throughout the week, even when at work or dealing with other 'ordinary' issues of life?

Why are these imperatives such an important part of following Jesus? In other words, what makes denial of self and dying to self so necessary?

4. **Read Mark 8:36:** What have been some of the personal transformative changes you have experienced while walking with Jesus? What has changed the most in you after receiving Christ?

III. Prayer and reflection:

Pray for each other in response to this text from Mark. Think in particular of aspects of today's text and message that stick out to you in some way, either because it is encouraging or challenging. Take some time this week to prayerfully reflect on that aspect(s). Spend some time reflecting on this issue in a deeper way.