



Mark: Following Jesus Explained

Mark 8:31-38

To recap our Journey with Jesus through the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is giving us two special gifts. One, he is offering to forgive our sins, and secondly he is building the Kingdom of God here on Earth.

- *What are some helpful responses to God because of these gifts?*

Read aloud with the group Mark 8:31-38, after reading this statement together:

“The God that has given us everything, can ask for anything.”

- *What are the three claims that Jesus makes of us in verse 34?*
- *What does Jesus promise would be the reward of the person that gives his life in surrender to verse 34?*

The secular world calls us to focus on ourselves and to do things that will make us happy. The Lord calls us to deny ourselves, **which goes against everything the world tells us to do.**

- *What could it practically look like to live a life of self-denial?*
- *What does self-denial save us from becoming?*
 - *What has your lack of self-denial led you to become?*

Death on the cross represented a punishment that included pain, suffering, and most of all shame. Jesus would surrender himself on a cross, and then in Mark 8:34 he is telling us to take up a cross. **The God that has given us everything, can ask for anything.**

- *In what areas of your life do you need to regularly take the low road of humility?*
- *How does carrying this cross of humility begin to look like a gift from God?*

We are called by Jesus to deny ourselves, carry our cross, and finally to follow him. A life of obedience to him leads us to a place of trust and surrender.

- *If following God frees our soul, why do we struggle with wanting to surrender and follow after Him?*

Close in prayer by together by reading **Mark 8:35:37** and contemplating these important words of Jesus.