

Sermon Discussion Questions, March 14, 2010, Dr. Rod MacIvaine
***“Making the Hard Choice to Be a Disciple”* Mark 8:27-38**

1. Read Mark 8:27-30. Why do you think Jesus went (with the disciples) to the pagan, sinful city of Caesarea Philippi? What is the first question that Jesus asked the disciples? Why do you think this was the first question Jesus asked them?

2. What was the second question Jesus asked? Look closely at Peter’s words. Describe how Peter answered? What do you suppose went through the disciples minds when they heard Peter’s statement? What important principles do you learn about how we are to share the message of the gospel?

3. Has there ever been a time when you had to make a bold statement about Jesus? How did others respond or react to your words? How are you encouraged when you hear another Christian boldly proclaim the Truth of Christ?

4. Read Mark 8:31-33, Matthew 20:20-22, Mark 10:35-37. What do you think originally fueled the disciple’s passion to follow Christ? How do we do the same thing today? How do you think the disciples might have felt when Jesus predicted His rejection and death?

5. Examine verse 33. How would you describe the way that Jesus rebuked Peter? Why? What did this rebuke force the disciples to learn? What happens to us when our expectations go unmet? Read Colossians 3:1-2, ultimately, where will all our expectations be met? How should this truth affect the way we live today?

6. Read Mark 8:34-38. According to verse 34, what are the three habits of a disciple? What does it mean and “not” mean to deny self? How do you personally put this into practice in your own life?

7. What comes to mind when you see a cross? What do you think went through the disciples minds when Jesus said, “Take up your cross?” What cross has the Lord already required you to carry? What have you learned as a result?

8. What principle is obvious in the third habit, “follow me?” Is being a Christ follower hard or easy according to these verses? What kind of spiritual disciplines are needed to help us follow Christ? In what new ways will you follow Christ this week?