

# ***Making the Hard Choice to Be a Disciple***

**Mark 8:27-38**

**Main Idea:** At one level, all of us who know Christ personally are Jesus' disciples. But Jesus constantly challenges us to "excel still more" in our commitment to him. In this section of Mark's gospel, Jesus reveals that committed discipleship involves three things.

## **1. *CONFESSION* – Being a disciple requires us to be verbal about our faith but in skillful ways. Mark 8:27-30**

- A. We must verbalize our faith before unbelievers. 8:27
  - 1. Jesus brings his disciples to a place of great spiritual darkness: Caesarea Philippi.
  - 2. Jesus takes them into a prominent public place, and asks for a confession.
- B. We must verbalize our faith before believers. 8:27b-29
  - 1. Jesus asks a safe question: Who do men say that I am? 8:27b-28
  - 2. Jesus asks an unsafe question: Who do you say that I am? 8:29a
  - 3. Peter takes great risks to make the confession. 8:29b
- C. We must verbalize our faith wisely. 8:30
  - 1. Jesus instructs them to tell no one...just yet.
  - 2. Jesus instructs us to tell people in wise and appropriate ways. Matt. 5:13-16
- D. *Application* – Disciples don't live secret Christian lives. They make their commitment known.

## **2. *CONFRONTATION* – Discipleship requires us to confront natural human expectations. Mark 8:31-33**

- A. The disciples had expectations about what the Messiah would do. Isaiah 9:6
  - 1. They believed Messiah would be a king, transforming Israel into a world superpower.
  - 2. They believed they would have a prominent role in Messiah's new government.
- B. Jesus shatters the disciples' expectations. 8:31-32a
  - 1. Jesus informs them plainly that he is going to suffer, die, and then rise from the dead.
  - 2. Jesus shows that the Messianic prophesies are not fulfilled in *this life* but the *next*.
- C. Jesus confronts the selfishness of their expectations. 8:32b-33
  - 1. Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes Jesus for being so "pessimistic."
  - 2. Jesus looks at all the disciples, rebukes Peter, and says, "Get behind me Satan."
- D. *Application* – Disciples set their minds on eternity. Colossians 3:1ff

## **3. *COMMITMENT* – Discipleship requires total commitment for a lifetime. Mark 8:34-38**

- A. *The habits of a disciple* – Discipleship requires a three-fold commitment. 8:34
  - 1. Deny self as the center of authority.
  - 2. Take up your cross.
  - 3. Follow Christ.
- B. *First motive: the present* – Disciples will experience ultimate meaning in life. 8:35
  - 1. Some people try to save their lives and end up losing them.
  - 2. Jesus challenges us to lose our lives in God's service, and we'll save it.
  - 3. We must weigh the alternatives: what does it profit you if you lose your soul?
- C. *Second motive: the future* – Disciples will fare well in judgment. Unbelievers will receive judgment for sin. Believers will receive reward at the judgment seat of Christ. 8:38