

Title: Follow the King

Passage: Mark 8:34-38

Mark 8:34-38

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Exposition

Why die to self and follow the King?

- My debt exceeds all
- I cannot ransom myself
- My soul is determined by the King

Context: Jesus made clear that He is the Christ

Mark 8:29

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

- but wanted to keep secret

Mark 8:34

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

If anyone would come after me

- anyone = no limits but open to all

let him deny himself

- deny = consider dead or foreign / disavow or disconnect (Ex: Peter denied Christ)
- Meaning = death to self

take up his cross

- Cross = public, panicky, patient death
- His cross = die to sin forgiven
- Take = present tense (always on-going)

Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

and follow me.

- follow = stay in step

Mark 8:35

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

- certain promise

For whoever would save his life will lose it

- life = soul
- save his life = self-sovereignty
- Our basic impulse is self-preservation

but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

- loses his life = surrender sovereignty to God

Isaiah 40:5, 9

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken....Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

- Gospel (good news) = Behold your God!

Mark 10:23-31

And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,

who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

- Economic value comparison
- Gain of the whole world < the value of your soul

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Luke 16:19-23

There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

Luke 12:16-20

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

Mark 8:37

For what can a man give in return for his soul?

- Answer: Nothing

Psalms 49:7-8

Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice

- your own good deeds cannot gain/ransom your soul

Isaiah 64:6

We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Isaiah 40:15

Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

- all of the world is a mere drop yet insufficient to ransom our lives

1 Peter 1:18-19

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- we were ransomed by the blood of Christ

Mark 8:38

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Ashamed of me and of my words

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (the Gospel)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Romans 1:16-17 (ashamed?)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:18 (suppress the truth?)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

in this adulterous and sinful generation

- adulterous and sinful

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:25

because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Romans 11:33-36 (God's greatness)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (Jesus' return)

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Revelation 19:11-13 (Jesus returns in glory)

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

Application

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.