

# 06

MARK 8:27-37; 9:2-10

## WHAT IT COSTS



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

When we have limited resources, we have to make sure we spend those resources wisely, especially if we can't get them back. For instance, we might be able to make more money, but we can't get more time. We also just get one life to live, so what we spend it on matters. We might be tempted to waste our lives in the single-minded pursuit of things that fade away, like fame, fortune, position, power, and so forth, but Jesus has the power to save souls for all eternity. When we spend our lives focusing on Him, we invest wisely. Today, we'll discover what happens when we choose to follow Jesus and what happens when we don't. Like the crowd, we'll learn that following Jesus is costly, but it's always the right choice.



### CENTRAL **truth**

Following Jesus is a costly privilege.



EXPLORE

# scripture

MARK 8:27-37; 9:2-10

## MARK 8:27-33

**27** Jesus went out with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the road he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” **28** They answered him, “John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets.” **29** “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” **30** And he strictly warned them to tell no one about him. **31** Then he began to

teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. **32** He spoke openly about this. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33** But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God’s concerns but human concerns.”

## MARK 8:34-37

**34** Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. **35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of

me and the gospel will save it. **36** For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? **37** What can anyone give in exchange for his life?”

## MARK 9:2-10

**2** After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves to be alone. He was transfigured in front of them, **3** and his clothes became dazzling — extremely white as no launderer on earth could whiten them. **4** Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. **5** Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it’s good for us to be here. Let’s set up three shelters: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” — **6** because he did not know what to say,

since they were terrified. **7** A cloud appeared, overshadowing them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my beloved Son; listen to him!” **8** Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. **9** As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. **10** They kept this word to themselves, questioning what “rising from the dead” meant.

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE MARK 8:34

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?




What does this passage demand of me?


day 1

# MARK 8:27-31

## DWELL

Jesus only reveals His Father's plan to those who know Him. That's why it's so important not to listen to what the world has to say about God, the Bible, and Jesus. If someone isn't following Jesus, they don't know the truth. They may have heard it, but they don't understand it on a spiritual level. Even those who do understand forget sometimes. God is truth (see John 14:6), and He never changes (see Num. 23:19). He's the One you should go to with questions.

 The truth Jesus spoke was often hard. How can you prepare yourself to receive hard truth from Jesus?

 Who do you say Jesus is? How do you know?

## MEMORIZE

Write Mark 8:34 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

## PRAY

Thank God for inviting you to see who Jesus really is. Thank Him for letting you participate in His plan to redeem the world.

day 2

# MARK 8:32-33

## DWELL

When Jesus lets us know what He's up to, it's often not what we expected or hoped for. Our response in these moments says a lot about what we believe to be true about Jesus and our motives for following Him. If we truly believe He's God—wise, gracious, kind, just, merciful, good, love, holy—we will submit to His will joyfully. If we truly want to bring glory to God, we won't worry too much about how His plan impacts us. It may be hard and we may not love it, but we will accept it.



Why is it a problem if you are more worried about the things that concern you than the things that concern God?



What are some things you tend to worry about? How could you turn your focus to God instead?

## MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 8:34 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

## PRAY

Thank God for Jesus's example of devotion to His plan and glory.

day 3

# MARK 8:34-38

## DWELL

Jesus wasn't asking any more of His followers than God was asking of Him. He was willing to die, so we should be willing to make big sacrifices too. We may think we are until dying means giving up something we think we deserve. Then pride creeps in, and we wonder if we haven't already given enough. The answer is no! We haven't given enough until we've given God everything, because He deserves more than all we have. That's why the cross was necessary in the first place.



What might Jesus have meant by an "adulterous and sinful generation" (v. 38)?



Are you hopeful about the future or do you fear what eternity holds? How can you pray about this?

## MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 8:34 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

## PRAY

Thank God for making His expectations clear and for promising to reward your faith in Jesus with eternal life. Ask Him to give you the courage to stand for truth when you're tempted not to.



day 4

# MARK 9:1-10

## DWELL

When Jesus revealed who He really was, it scared Peter to death. We all know people who start talking more when they're nervous, and apparently Peter was one of these people. In the middle of an amazing moment, he started talking, maybe to cover his fear and to take back a little control of the moment. Whatever his motive was, Peter's compulsive talking ended the moment. When God rewards our pursuit of Him with His presence or wisdom, we must resist the urge to manage the experience, or we'll miss out on something truly special.

↓ Peter saw Jesus in His glorified form and heard God's voice with His own ears. What does it tell us that he was able to still deny even knowing Jesus later (see 14:66-72)?

← Why was it significant that Jesus was standing with Moses and Elijah? What did this prove (see 8:24)?

## MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 8:34 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

## PRAY

Thank God for showing you who He truly is. Promise to pay attention when He's talking to you and trying to show you something.

day 5

# LUKE 9:28-36

## DWELL

Luke's account of the transfiguration gives us a little more insight about what happened and why it happened. Peter, James, and John didn't just get to see Jesus's glorified form, which would have been enough. They were also given an opportunity to eavesdrop on a conversation that could have answered their questions about what was coming for Jesus—but they dozed off! It's possible that when we think God has been silent, we've just been asleep.

↻ What one thing did Peter, James, and John get right here?

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↔ How can Jesus's experiences with the disciples encourage you when people around you don't understand what you're trying to tell them about Him?

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## MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 8:34 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

## PRAY

Thank God for being compassionate and patient. Thank Him for giving you lots of chances to respond to Him properly.