

THE COST OF NON-DISCIPLESHIP

Key Text: Mark 8:31-38

Illustration: excerpt from Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard
“non-discipleship is the elephant in the church”

Matt 28:18-20 (ESV) *The Great Commission*

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 8:31-32a (ESV) - The hinge.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly.

a. And He said this plainly...

- What He said
- Suffering and rejection
- **Mark 13:13.** *And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*
- **2 Timothy 3:12.** *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*
- **Matthew 19:29.** *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.*
- **Philippians 3:8.** *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*

b. by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes...

- The best of mankind

Mark 8:32b (ESV)

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

a. Peter questioned Christ

b. This is the lie from the garden.

Mark 8:33 (ESV)

But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

- a. Jesus rebukes Peter and, in essence, the disciples.
- b. Peter’s offense

Mark 8:34 (ESV)

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.

- a. If anyone...
- b. Come after Me...
- c. Deny himself...
- d. Take up his cross...
- e. Follow Me.

Illustration: excerpts from Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

“The great thing is to prevent his doing anything. As long as he does not convert it into action, it does not matter how much he thinks about this new repentance. Let the little brute wallow in it. Let him, if he has any bent that way, write a book about it; that is often an excellent way of sterilizing the seeds which the Enemy (God) plants in a human soul. Let him do anything but act. No amount of piety in his imagination and affections will harm us if we can keep it out of his will.”- the demon Screwtape’s advice to his junior demon

“A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all—and more amusing.” - spoken by the demon Screwtape

Galatians 5:22-35

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Mark 8:35 (ESV)

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

Illustration: excerpts from The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.”

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

Mark 8:36 (ESV)

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

Illustration: King Charlemagne

Colossians 3:1-3 (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Mark 8:37 (ESV)

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

Pslam 49:7-9

Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, 8 for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, 9 that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

Mark 8:38 (ESV)

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."

Excerpt from Follow Me by David Platt

"I want to be a part of a people who really believe that we have the Spirit of God in each of us for the spread of the Gospel through all of us. I want to be a part of a people who are gladly sacrificing the pleasures, pursuits, and possessions of this world because we are living for treasure in the world to come. I want to be a part of a people who have forsaken every earthly ambition in favor of one eternal aspiration: to see disciples made and churches multiplied from our houses to our communities to our cities to the nations."

Application

- a. What's holding you back?
- b. Reflect on Mark 8:31-38
- c. Find application
- d. Pray for wisdom and courage