



MARCH 5, 2023  
SALVATION & SUFFERING  
MARK 8:31-38

Introduction: Sometimes joy requires suffering.

1. Jesus's messianic mission required His suffering.

2. Our mission as Jesus' disciples will require our suffering.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Consider a time in your life when you accomplished something amazing, and the suffering that was required to achieve it.
2. The people of Jesus' day had ideas about what the Messiah would do that were out of line with God's plan. Do you ever struggle to align with God's plans instead of your own?
3. Mark wants Jesus' followers to know that the way of Jesus is the cruciform or "cross-shaped" life of self-giving and suffering. That they should expect to suffer as they follow Him. How do you deal with the idea of inevitable suffering?
4. Take some time to consider if you have been trying to hold onto "Jesus and..." Jesus and comfort, Jesus and control. Confess this to God and ask Him to help you surrender your whole life, just as Jesus did. Ask Him to remind you of why it is worth it, like Paul says in Romans 8:18.