



Week of September 16, 2018

Mark 8:27-38

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."

³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Have you ever bought (or been tempted to buy) a product from an infomercial? What was attractive about it?
- B. What was the worst shortcut (of any kind – a shortcut through a process, to a destination, etc.) that you ever tried to take?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 35, do you read "life" as referring to physical life, eternal life, spiritual life, etc.? What does that teaching mean to you?
2. In verse 38, what do you think it means to be "ashamed" of Jesus? What then does it mean for Jesus to be ashamed of us?
3. In verse 34, what do you think it means to "take up their cross and follow me"? What would YOUR cross be?
4. We talk a lot about the necessity of Christ's death, but in verse 31 and elsewhere Jesus speaks of the necessity of his *suffering*. Why do you think that he must *suffer*?
5. In verse 33, Jesus says to Peter "you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." When do you do this, and how does this lead you away from faithful action?
6. What is a hard situation that is confronting you, where you would prefer the easy path around it? What would the *worthy* outcome be?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about choosing the worthy destination, not the easy path.