



STUDY GUIDE

PART FIVE: Leading Strong in Troubled Times

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CRAZY IDEAS:

Isn't it interesting that when Jesus asked his disciples about what people were saying about him, some people thought he was **the reincarnation of John the Baptist**? That's pretty out there. With our culture today, there are many "spiritual" ideas and beliefs based on feelings rather than facts. Evidently, it was true in Jesus' day too.

MARK 8:31&32a

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this...

MARK 10:33&34

"We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Jesus couldn't have spoken more clearly about what was to happen in Jerusalem but his disciples couldn't seem to grasp it.

Jesus' message was _____ to accept
TOO DIFFICULT
because it was _____ from what they had always believed.
TOO DIFFERENT

1. What have you learned recently about following Jesus that is different than how you previously thought?

Was it difficult for you to change your thinking? Why?

MARK 8:34

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Jesus let his followers know that they were facing a turning point. Basically, he said...

This isn't gonna be _____ anymore.
FUN

I THINK I’M GONNA LOSE IT!:

MARK 8:35

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

_____ loses our _____
EACH OF US EARTHLY LIFE

2. Of course, not everything we do for our earthly life is evil. We must take care of the business at hand in order to be all we can be for God and others. The key is the balance, the priority, the purpose. Which list below requires more of our resources (time, energy, health, money, etc.)

EARTHLY LIFE TO-DO’S

ETERNAL LIFE TO-DO’S

MARK 10:41-45 *When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. ”You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”*

What Jesus told James and John is for us too...basically, “You know how the world works. Most people use their power and resources to benefit their own lives, but

_____”
NOT SO WITH YOU

answers:

- 1. Personal answer: (something like...how we are to love and reach out to those who don’t believe)
- 2. Things like: careers, family, finances, doing for neighbors, helping organizations that do good for others, will show up on these to-do lists...