

Following the Resurrected Jesus

Mark 8:31-33

A photograph of a Space Shuttle launching from a launchpad, viewed from a distance across a body of water. The shuttle is ascending vertically, leaving a large, bright plume of fire and white smoke. The launch is reflected in the calm water in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with some white clouds. In the foreground, there are green reeds and bushes along the water's edge. A dark grey rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the equation for impulse.
$$F = ((m * V)2 - (m * V)1) / (t2 - t1)$$

What did it **cost Jesus** to follow God and fulfill His purposes?

What did it **cost God** to pave the way for sinners like us to follow Him?

He is the way, the truth, and the life, *“and there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we may be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

This is what the disciples now need to accept:

Looking to Jesus means **life**, and following Jesus means you must **die**.

Jesus shows us that **resurrection** to new life **first** requires a **death**. **Jesus, Himself**, is the resurrection and the life! Jesus Christ **alone** paved the way for being **forgiven** by God and for **following** God in faith.

In **Mark 8:31-33**, Jesus reveals **two critical characteristics** of any person who claims to **follow Him as He followed God**:

I. A Heart Devoted to **God's Will** (Mark 8:31)

*“And He **began** to teach them...”*

This was an **ongoing** teaching ministry to His followers, a process, a teaching that Jesus would **expound** on and one that they needed time to **grow into**.

*“...be on your guard lest you, having been carried away by the error of unprincipled men, fall from your own steadfastness, **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**” (2 Pet. 3:17-18)*

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40)

I. A Heart Devoted to *God's Will* (Mark 8:31)

Notice His emphasis, “...*the Son of Man **must** suffer many things...*”

Jesus was born for that purpose. He lived to fulfill that mandate from the Father. His life was a life of service to God's will which brought suffering, rejection, and death.

Jesus is talking about the **cross**! That is what it meant for **Jesus** to follow God! **Before** Jesus could be resurrected, He had to **die**.

I. A **Heart** Devoted to *God's Will* (Mark 8:31)

It is a **heart** exclusively devoted to **doing God's will**... in **all** things.

II. A **Mind** Set on **God's** *Interests* (Mark 8:32-33)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”
(Is. 55:8-9)

II. A **Mind** Set on *God's Interests* (Mark 8:32-33)

But **Peter did not accept** what Jesus told him about what being the Messiah **meant for Jesus**.

Peter's blindness to **Jesus'** suffering makes Peter blind to what this means for **Peter**.

Peter saw Christ, but he **did not see the cross**.

II. A **Mind** Set on *God's Interests* (Mark 8:32-33)

Why did **Peter** rebuke the **Lord**?

1. **Because Peter had his mind set on the things of this world.**
2. **Because Peter was ashamed of Jesus.**

The **force** needed to **overcome gravity's** grip on the space shuttle:

$$F = ((m * V)^2 - (m * V)^1) / (t2 - t1)$$

God's formula for defining the **salvation** needed for God to **overcome sin's grip** on the human soul:

$$S = (J * L) + (J * D) + (J * R) / (\text{by } G\mathbf{a} + \text{through } F\mathbf{a} + \text{in } C\mathbf{a})$$

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