

Come Follow Me

Mark 8:27- 9:1

A. Different Kinds of Invitations

1. Invitations to salvation
2. All of us need & can accept this invitation (Rom.3:23; 5:8; 10:9; 10:13).
3. Invitations to find comfort (Matt. 11:28)
4. Invitations to pray in times of need (Jer. 33:3).

B. Now a Challenging Invitation

1. An invitation to discipleship, to count the cost.
2. An invitation to suffering, deprivation, and even martyrdom.
3. This is what this challenging invitation is all about

C. Jesus Predicts His Suffering and Resurrection

1. Jesus has just been identified as the Messiah (Mark 8:27-30).
2. Jesus openly declares His coming suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection.
3. This contrasts with the disciples' expectations of a triumphant political ruler.
4. Disciples' expectation was of a victorious Messiah arriving to defeat their foes.
5. This contrasted with Jesus' revelation of a suffering Messiah.
6. His suffering is not an accident but God's plan for redemption (Isaiah 53:3-5).
7. True discipleship requires self-denial, suffering, and obedience to Christ.
8. Bonhoeffer said when Jesus calls us to follow, he calls us to follow and die.
9. The Disciples didn't understand the necessity of the Cross.
10. Jesus' suffering is necessary ("must suffer"), fulfilling God's redemptive plan.
11. The resurrection brings hope—suffering is not the end of the story.
12. Christian life is centred on Christ's sacrifice. We must embrace His mission.

D. A Challenge to Forget Self

1. *"Let him deny himself"* This is not an easy challenge to accept
 - a. We're all prone to look out for number one
 - b. Even the disciples longed for high places (Mark 10:27-40).
2. Discipleship calls for giving Christ first place
 - a. Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33)
 - b. Christ has to have the pre-eminence (Col. 1:17-18)
3. Who's on the throne of your life? Who has first place, self or the Saviour?

E. Peter's Rebuke and Jesus' Response (Mark 8:32b-33)

1. Peter, representing human thinking, tries to prevent Jesus from suffering.
2. His mindset reflects worldly desires rather than God's purposes.
3. Peter misunderstood, wanting a victorious Messiah, not a suffering one.
4. Jesus sharply rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan!"

5. Peter unknowingly aligns with Satan's opposition to God's plan.
6. This is a demonstration that worldly thinking opposes God's will.

F. A Call to Follow Our Savior

1. *"Let him ... follow me"*
2. Only those who are saved can follow Jesus.
3. The presence of The Holy Spirit enables us to endure hardship for Christ.
4. Following Christ may lead through difficult places. That's discipleship.

G. The Cost of Discipleship (Mark 8:34-38)

1. Jesus talks on denying self and taking up the cross (v. 34)
2. Surrendering personal ambitions & willingly endure suffering for Christ.
3. The paradox of losing to gain. Those who try to save their lives will lose them.
4. But those who lose their lives for Christ will find true life.
5. Gain vs. Loss: Gaining the world but losing one's soul is the ultimate tragedy.
6. True fulfillment is found in surrendering to Christ.
7. The cross is about death
 - a. Jesus had just revealed His coming death (v. 31)
 - b. Peter didn't understand God's redemption plan & rebelled at the message.
8. This is about full surrender, being willing to suffer for Christ's sake.
 - a. Christ surrendered Himself to the cross to save us
 - b. We are to surrender to Him in everything
9. Walk in obedience to Him, regardless of the cost.
10. What are we holding onto that hinders us from fully following Christ?
11. What are you holding back from your Lord?

H. The Value of the Soul (vv. 36-37)

1. What is worth more than a soul? Our choices affect our eternal destiny.
2. If we reject Christ now, He will reject us at His coming.
3. Boldness in faith: Publicly living for Christ despite opposition.

I. The Promise Of The Coming of the Kingdom

1. Jesus promises that some will see the kingdom of God before they die.
2. Are we anticipating of His return?
3. Suffering is temporary, but God's kingdom is eternal.
4. Living for Christ now leads to glory with Him later.
5. The cost of discipleship is great, but the reward is greater—eternal life in Christ.

J. Conclusion: Living in the Power of the Cross

1. Christ's suffering was necessary for our salvation.
2. Discipleship means self-denial and full devotion to Jesus.
3. Will you follow Jesus wholeheartedly, no matter the cost?
4. Are we willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus?