

### **Mark 8:27-38:**

In the opening verse of this passage from Mark we read, "And on the way..."

Jesus had left Bethsaida, and was heading towards Caesarea Philippi.

He was in the early stages of his final journey to Jerusalem.

Jesus still had many things to teach his disciples.

He also wanted to be plain with the ordinary people, and to let them know that choosing to be a follower of Jesus is not easy, or straightforward..... it may involve sacrifice and difficulties.

Jesus seems to have been letting people know, "It's crunch time. From here on, being a follower of mine will change things in your life. Think carefully."

Jesus also outlined the fact that there would also be consequences for those people who chose not to follow Jesus.

He was saying that life lived without Jesus may seem empty and hollow - it may seem that we have given up a very valuable part of ourselves - our souls - if we turn our backs on Jesus.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. His followers were also on the way..... on the journey of the rest of their lives. The choices which they made in relation to Jesus would be crucial.

They could put Jesus in charge of their journey, or they could choose to put themselves in charge.

It's that simple - and also the hardest choice we ever have to make.... and one which crops up again and again, as we face new situations and new opportunities.

Blessings from Meg

**ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE, BECAUSE ONE DAY YOU WILL LOOK BACK, AND REALIZE THEY were the big things.**

### **Mark 8:27-38 (NIV)**

#### **Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

#### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

#### **The Way of the Cross**

<sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

<sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

If someone asks me "How does life taste like?"

I would certainly answer 'Dark Chocolate' ! Cause it's a perfect blend of sweetness and bitterness, but I love it anyway! ~ Tanvi Purohit



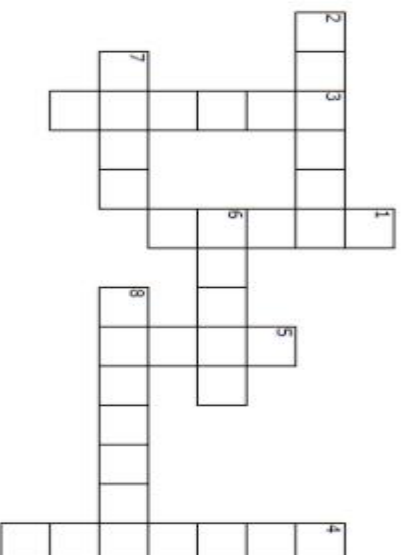
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WORLD	CHRIST	LIFE	TEACH	DISCIPLES
DENY	KILLED	SOUL	FOLLOW	SATAN
FORFEIT	VILLAGES	LOSE	GOSPEL	GAIN
PROPHETS	SUFFER	SAVE	RISE	CROSS

## Take Up Your Cross

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b (NIV)

Based on Mark 8:27-38



### ACROSS

- To experience injury, pain, or death
- The evil enemy of God; the leader of the fallen angels
- The spiritual part of a person which exists after death
- The expected savior of the world

### DOWN

- The object upon which Jesus was crucified
- To take someone as our leader or model
- A person who speaks for God
- To keep something from harm or loss