

Date : 17 August 2025
Theme : Book of Mark - Servanthood.
Title : Servants must follow Jesus only on His terms.
Passage : Mark 8:27 – 9:8
Key verse : Mark 8:34 NKJV – “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Introduction

Jesus called all the people to Himself that any who desired to follow Him, must deny himself and take up his cross, addressing the issue of Lordship.

1. Jesus' Followers will face the problem of faithfulness.

- Following Christ is also a journey.
- Satan will use temptation and intimidation to stop us.

2. Jesus' Solution –follow on His terms. v34

a. We must first desire to follow Jesus.

- Jesus calls for a deliberate choice to be made.

b. We must be willing to deny ourselves.

- i. Self-denial is not about
 - personal agenda versus putting God's purpose first.

ii. Areas of self-denial:

- resources
- wants
- needs

iii. Jesus' example of self denial

c. Take up our cross.

3. Considering the profit and loss factor.

- a. Preserve our lives
 - versus losing it for Jesus' sake.

- b. Profit by gaining our soul
 - gaining the whole world versus preserving our souls.

- c. Honor from Jesus
 - versus Him being ashamed of us.

- d. Participate in the glory of Jesus
 - versus losing His commendation *"Well done good & faithful servant."*

Application

1. What do you consider would be your biggest loss?

2. What do you consider would be your biggest gain?