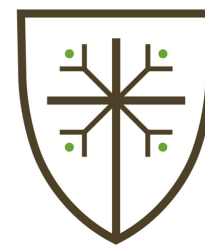


# TO CARE & NOT TO CARE

Lent Sermon Series

Art: "Solenn" by Dawn Waters Baker

# SERMON NOTES



## February 25, 2024

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Losing to Save"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

Genesis 17:1-5, 15-16

Romans 4:13, 18-25

Mark 8:31-37

### DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. What are some ways in which sin has impaired our vision of the true God?
2. Can you identify some of the "lesser crosses" in your life that you've been called to bear?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our lent sermon series "To Care and Not to Care" by addressing the question, "what do we need to truly live again?"

#### Conflict

In verse 32 of our gospel reading, we see Peter aggressively pull Jesus aside and rebuke him. Peter displays a boldness and impudence toward God, a type of disrespect that we are all too familiar with. Peter can't see the color of what Jesus is talking about and neither can we. We can't see the full picture and in our lack of sight, we rebuke God. He becomes a means to our own imagined end.

#### Context

In the passage immediately preceding the gospel text, Jesus takes his disciples to Casarea-Philippi, a thoroughly pagan context in which Jesus asks his disciples, "who do you say that I am?" Peter answers confidently, "you are the Christ, the Son of God." His answer is different from the answers the rest of the world gives. To many, Jesus was one among many religious flavors. But the disciples, represented by Peter's response, look different from the world. And yet now in chapter 8, we see a very different Peter. The disciples both see and don't see who Jesus is.

This section of Mark is bookended by the story of the healings of 2 blind men. For the first, in Bethsaida, Jesus uses two touches. And in between those two touches, the man sees only vaguely. His vision is still obscured and hazy. The disciples are like the man in between the two touches. They see who Jesus is but can't see the rest, they can't see what that means. We are all like the disciples here in Mark. We all need deeper change than we realize – a second touch to restore our sight.

#### Calling

Finally, what is Jesus calling to us? There are two main errors that often come to light during the season of Lent. The first is that if we are good enough and suffer enough, we'll be right with God. But as our gospel passage says, "what can a man give in return for his soul?" God owns our soul. We ruined it with sin. A man can never pay enough to cover the cost. The only thing worth enough is Christ himself. He's willing to pay more than the entire world is worth for us.

The second error is thinking if Jesus already paid the cost, then I have no cross to bear. If we follow Christ, he calls us to bear our own crosses, lesser crosses. Bearing our lesser crosses doesn't bring about forgiveness, but it does bring transformation.