

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

"Discipleship and discipling... can be understood in a broader way as Christian experience—that is, the self-understanding of the early Christian believers as believers: what such a way of life requires, implies, entails. Thus, when we speak of Christian discipleship and discipling we are speaking of what it means to grow as a Christian in every area of life. Since disciple is a common referent for Christian, discipleship and discipling imply the process of becoming like Jesus Christ. Discipleship and discipling mean living a fully human life in this world in union with Jesus Christ and growing in conformity with his image."

"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

MARK 8:34-38

BACKGROUND ON MARK

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP THE REWARDS FOR DISCIPLESHIP THE ATTITUDE OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

"As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 'Follow me,' Jesus told them, 'and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him."

Mark 1:16-20

2. THE REWARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

"17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother." 20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth." 21 Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, "You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions."

29 "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundred times more, now at this time —houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and eternal life in the age to come. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Mark 10:29-31

"While eternal life and treasures in heaven is the ultimate gift from God, in the present discipleship means entrance into the new family of God... Jesus' teaching here would have been shocking in its first century Greco-Roman context, where loyalty to family, clan, and tribe superseded all other relationships. Jesus teaches a radical new ethic of spiritual relationships..."

Dr. Mark Strauss
Following Jesus Christ, ch. 2

3. THE ATTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLE

"5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he told them. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you." 8 They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid."

THE ATTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLE:

- OBEDIENCE
 HUMILTY
- BOLDNESS

