

**NOTES: Wonderfully Complicated | God's Plans are Better**  
**February 21-22, 2026 | Compelled Church | Pastor Nate Elarton**

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**Mark 8.27-30**

Before you can receive your identity in Christ, you have to know, believe, and trust in His identity.

**Mark 8.31-33**

We have expectations of God that he never agreed to.

***“Get behind me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.” (Mark 8:33, NASB)***

***“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:1–2, NIV)***

**Mark 8.34-38**

Take up your cross – deny yourself

- Deny yourself. Put to death selfish interest and earthly searches steeped in self-centeredness, which is the Great Idol of the 21st century.
- To take up a cross is to publicly demonstrate submission and obedience to the authority of God in our lives, which we previously rebelled against.

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16, NIV)*

**1. God’s plan requires our “Cross”.**

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20, NIV)*

**Question: What in your life needs to be “crucified”? Write your answer here.**

## **2. God's plan has earthly consequences.**

*"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* (Matthew 5:11–12, NIV)

**Question: What earthly pushback, persecution, or scorn would you receive, and from whom would it come, if you really served the Lord, openly, boldly, without shame?**

## **3. God's plans are always better than our plans.**

*"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."*" (Mark 8:33, NIV)

**Questions:**

**How can you seek God's plans for your life in an increased way?**

**How can you read the Bible more to seek God's plans for you? When? Where?**

**What plans do you need to tweak because they are not God's plans and you know it?**

## **4. God's plan will bring complications, but they are so wonderful.**

- *Yes we will lose friends, but we will gain friends.*
- *Yes our sin has to be dealt with – we are free.*
- *Yes we will need to put to death our self-centered tendencies, plans, and thinking.*
  - *We will be lost, for our selfishness is never satisfied.*
  - *Living and loving others is more gratifying - Serving the World.*

**Questions to Meditate upon (Write your answers below or in your journal. Pray over them as the Spirit directs every day this week):**

Are you compromising your soul with a behavior that needs to "STOP"?

What is God asking you to "START" in your life?

What are you doing that is in God's plan that you should "KEEP" Doing?