

The Gospel of Mark – Embarrassed or Embraced

Mark 8:27-38 May 17th, 2026

I SURRENDER ALL?!?!

The hymn “**I Surrender All**” was written in 1896 by American Methodist minister and evangelist Judson W. Van DeVenter, who later told the story that the song grew out of a **personal spiritual struggle** between pursuing a successful career in art and his sense of calling to full-time evangelism.

After years of wrestling with that decision, **he experienced what he described as a moment of deep surrender to God, choosing ministry over his artistic ambitions, and in that moment, the words of the hymn began to form as a reflection of his commitment.** The hymn quickly spread through revival meetings and churches, becoming **one of the most enduring expressions of personal devotion and yielding to God's** will in Protestant hymnody.

The Christ (27-30)

Caesarea Philippi vs. By the Sea

- Built by Herod the Great, a massive gushing spring at the base of Mount Hermon.
- Philip the Tetrarch: Herod took his wife and beheaded John the Baptist. Tetrarch = 1/3 Caesarea Philippi = One of Philip
- A Roman city dominated by the spirit of paganism.
- Show Images
- Culture: Infamous for their Temple to the Greek God; Pan.
- ½ Goat Statue: Music, Dancing, Ecstatic celebration... outdoors, with the flute.
- Thought to bless or to terrorize, farmers, shepherds, and travelers. **PANIC**
- The Banias Cave, Gates of Hades/Hell. Believed to be the entrance to the underworld.

Matthew 16:13-28

All of this is similar to the conversation with Herod – Mainstream Idea

The point is, people are talking about Jesus... in some BIG ways!

People were convinced He was from God, but could not see that He was God.

Who do they say that I am?

NOT, what do they think of my **teachings**?

NOT, what do they think of my **miracles**?

WHO do they say that I am? (THIS IS IT!!!)

Who do you say that I am?

You are THE CHRIST: Remember, title, not name

Christ is the Greek form for Messiah or anointed one. CONQUERING KING

If you call Him Christ, this is what you are saying.

Even the demons tremble

Americans have a little bit of a kingly outlook on life. By the people! Careful.

A King who had come to take back what was His & establish His kingdom here.

Imagine America being overtaken by another country

Axlandia: I was the king of my country. And then King or Christ Jesus showed up.

Who do you **SAY** that I am, not who do you **THINK** that I am. – connect this to the end
Time to decide, are you in or are you out?

On this truth, I will build my church (**ecclesia**)

A term used in every Greek city with regard to the governing body in the city.

“A word saturated with the ideas of authority and kingship.” – G. Cambel Morgan

It is a conquering kingdom and all other kingdoms will be brought under the subjection of The King. Shaking your fist against God is like shaking your fist against a tornado, standing stubborn or proud against the Creator of heaven and earth is like standing on the shoreline refusing to acknowledge the tidal wave moving towards you. It will swallow you whole without even knowing you were there.

Why not talk about it?

IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WASN'T TO BE PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED YET.

They didn't have the full understanding of what Christ was.

It had to be the cross and resurrection, and they didn't have that view yet.

The Cross (31-33)

From this point on, Mark records mentions of the cross and death of Christ 6 more times
BEGAN to teach, introduced them to a new lesson... a definite turning point in His teaching.

Jesus lays out a perfect roadmap for exactly what is going to happen. They are turning the corner into His final year of ministry.

- The Son of Man must suffer many things
- The Son of Man must be rejected by the elders and chief priests, and scribes
Civic, religious, and moral leaders
- The Son of Man must be killed
- The Son of Man must rise again after three days.

He spoke this word OPENLY:

Clearly articulated, unambiguous, plain language. Spoken in boldness with a confident tone, so that there could be no possibility of misunderstanding.

Peter cannot believe that Jesus got this one wrong. (hahaha)

(Peter rebuked Jesus)

Peter certainly had some serious guts and a strong spine.

But a spine and guts without understanding will still be wrong

Peter is laying into Jesus, turns around and LOOKS at His disciples

(What was the look on their face.) You tell 'em, Peter?

Peter got rebuked

- The Lord does rebuke people (YOU ARE WRONG!)
- Get behind Me, Satan! – The only other person Jesus said this to was, Satan.
(read it with the exclamation point in Middle Eastern culture)

Mindful of the things of men, not the things of God. (Of one mind, seeking)

The Commitment (38-9:1)

We usually treat free things with little value because it didn't cost us. Salvation isn't free, it's just free for you. Gift of God is eternal life. – How do you approach the cross?

If you were standing at the cross, saw the blood upon His face as He said, "It is finished," and breathed His last breath." Looked up and your name was on the certificate of punishment. It was supposed to be you. In one sense, they had the wrong guy. And you are about to walk home, free to live your life. **How would you live it? Worthy of the one who gave up His life so you could live yours?**

Conditions of Discipleship

Following Jesus is not a club nor is it a membership or subscription. (Gym pass)

Two Actions & A Relationship/Identity

34: How to follow (come after Jesus) How to know if you are following Jesus. (pre-cross

35: **The reality** (we must no longer make our own desires and interests the supreme desire of our life/attention.)

36-37: **The importance & impossibility** (there is no bartering for eternity) (Following means you are not leading. Do you see yourself behind Christ?)

It is a process; we have studied ½ the Gospel, and they are now getting serious.

Today... the Lord IS calling someone deeper, to step into what God has.

1. **Deny Himself** – To cut off, to have no acquaintance or connection with self.
2. **Take up your cross** – What people would think of you if you wore an orange prison jumpsuit marked for the firing squad and walked through town and into work.
3. **Follow Me** – You go where Jesus goes, you don't go where Jesus doesn't go.

It's funny being an adult and hearing adults use the logic of a child.

"Everyone else is doing it"

Ashamed of me: Ashamed to have a public attachment to me on account of my lowly appearance and my poverty. **(EMBARASED)**

(Mom, drop me off a block from school so people don't see me with you)

Whoever refuses or allows embarrassment or resistance through pride or wickedness will not be allowed into His coming kingdom.

Lowly, meek, despised, yet coming in power and glory.

We usually want to associate with things that we think are cool or will gain popularity.

Want to catch the overflow of who others are... do you?

Famous friends will give you a moment in the limelight

Humble, lowly friends will not, or maybe even make you known for lowliness.

Some of you avoid people because you don't want to be seen as strange or lame

If you only know Christ as a conquering king, you only see yourself as being associated with victory and success.

Lowly crucified servant, it doesn't quite bring you the glory, fame, simplicity, and advantages you thought you signed up for. Those things are to come!!! But Jesus had to make a way for you and I to be there before He could bring us there.

*Those who will not serve Him on earth will not enjoy Him in heaven
Eternal, hopeless sorrow – Albert Barnes*

Saving and losing your life – like grasping sand that will fall through your fingers the tighter you squeeze it.

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It's easy to surrender when you know who you are surrendering to.

The eternal, unending God of heaven and earth who under no obligation whatsoever, chose to die in your place. Paying off all your sins upon the cross. Surrendering to the one to whom death cannot even keep down.

Embarrassed to be associated with the King of kings and Lord of lords? Embarrassed to be seen with the One Who loves you and died for you? YA RIGHT!