

The Way of the Cross

Mark 8:31-38

Scripture: Mark 8:22–26

- *They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴ He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into^[a] the village."*

Who Do You Say That I Am? (Mark 8:27–30)

- *Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.*
- Jesus asks two questions:
 1. "Who do people say that I am?"
 2. "But who do *you* say that I am?"

The Disciples' Misunderstanding (Mark 8:31–33)

- *"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ 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."*

The Way of the Cross (Mark 8:34–38)

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Three Realities of Following Jesus

1. To follow Jesus means you must die so you can truly live.

2. To follow Jesus means choosing obedience over comfort.

3. To follow Jesus means giving up everything here to gain everything in eternity.

The Daily Cross

- Every day, we face a battle between **flesh** and **spirit**.
- This is what it means to **die daily** (1 Corinthians 15:31)
- Jesus is not asking us to do anything He hasn't already done for us.

Question

- Are you willing to pick up your cross — your desires, your comfort — and follow Him completely?