

Choice (Mark 8:34-38)

_____ yourself

Take up your _____

- Inevitability of the outcome
- Suffering
- Humiliation
- Loneliness
- Voluntary

_____ me

- The Paradox of Jesus' invitation – when losing means saving

Questions to Ponder

- Who do you believe Jesus to be?
- If you confess Jesus as your Lord, what is your next step on the path of following Him?
- What does it look like to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus in your life?

DISCOVERING JESUS: A Crossroad & The Cross Mark 8:27-38

Who you believe _____ to be, will direct the _____ you lead.

Confession (Mark 8:27-30)

THE foundational question:

- General: Who do _____ say I am?
- Personal: Who do _____ say I am?

A life altering confession:

You are the _____?

- Messiah = _____
- Anticipation of the coming Messiah
- Expectations of the Messiah (Psalm 110; Daniel 7:13-14)

Conflicting Expectations (Mark 8:31-33)

- Jesus confirms the confession
 - Mandate of silence
 - Self-Proclaimed Title: "Son of Man"
- Temptation of "Satan: (see Matthew 4)

- The Unthinkable Path of the Messiah (Isaiah 53)

**For continued message outline, please turn to the back of this handout.*

DISCOVERING JESUS: A Crossroad & The Cross

Date: 6/2/2019

GETTING STARTED

What summer plans do you have? Share one of your favorite summer memories.

SUNDAY RECAP

Life is full of decisions, some big and some very small and insignificant. The decision to follow Jesus is no small matter. Mark chapter 8 highlights for us, through the teaching of Jesus, the seriousness of such a decision. Jesus not only predicted his own path of suffering and death, but a similar path for all who chose to follow him. What you believe about Jesus will shape how you follow and even the example you set for others.

STUDY & SHARE

1. Read and reflect on Mark 8:27-30. Jesus asks Peter two very important questions... what were they and how did Peter respond? How would you personally answer those questions if Jesus were standing before you asking you the same?

2. Read and reflect on Mark 8:31-33. Jesus begins to teach his disciples about what was to come for him. Peter doesn't quite understand what Jesus was trying to explain to them. Jesus even

responds to Peter with telling him his thinking was off and that he was more concerned about earthly things. In what ways have you allowed your "human concerns" to distract you from the life God has called you to?

3. Read and reflect on Mark 8:34-38. Jesus then addresses the crowd gathered. Jesus describes a choice, what was it and why is it important?

According to this week's message, what does it mean to "take up your cross and follow?" Does that describe your life (why or why not)?

4. What stood out to you most about this week's message? What changes would you like to see in your walk with God that you could share with your group?

SHINE TO OTHERS

How can being a person who follows in the way of Jesus shine to others? How has your life been a positive, or negative example to others?

SUPPORT // PRAYER

Ask God to give you the strength and grace to take up your cross daily and follow him and ask God to do the same for all those at Rise City Church.

Pray for those in your group as well as other needs within your group.

These **Sermon Based Life Group Materials are provided by Rise City Church for the purpose of deeper study of God's Word and are best used in a small group setting. If you would like more information about Life Groups at Rise, please go the Life Groups page on our website or to the Rise City app.*