

## A Life Worth Living

Mark 8:34-38

### I. Paying the Price of a Valuable Life (Mark 8:34-37)

- A. Deny Himself, Follow me, Take up his cross: A life of following Christ is a life of sacrificial commitment (8:34).
1. Living sacrificially for Christ – Following Christ/taking our cross refers not to how we are saved, but to our discipleship - obeying Christ now that we are believers.
  2. Daily Discipleship – Discipleship is a continual process of choosing to please God, not self (“*daily*” – Luke 9:23).
- B. Saving or Losing: The choices we make about following Christ leads to two very different outcomes (8:35).
- Save/Lose – Doesn’t refer to being saved from sin or eternally lost, but to spending our life selfishly or for God.
    1. Save his life: To “*keep*” our life for selfish purposes means we will “*waste*” it for eternal purposes forever (35a).
    2. Lose his life: To “*sacrifice*” our life for eternal purposes means that we “*preserve*” its value forever (35b).
- C. Gaining the world, but “losing our soul/life”: It makes no sense to temporarily gain what this world offers and waste forever the value our life could have (8:36-37).
- Soul/Life – This is not our eternal “soul.” This is the same word, life, as in verse 35. The danger Jesus describes here is not hell, but of wasting the value of our life as believers.

### II. Counting the Cost of a Wasted Life (Mark 8:38)

- A. Will be ashamed of Me: If I live ashamed of Christ then when He returns, He will be ashamed of me (Mark 8:38).
- B. [Reward each person according to what He as done – When Christ returns for believers, He will reward our sacrifices for Him (Matthew 16:27- parallel to Mark 8:38)]