

MARK 8:27-38 – PETER CONFESSES JESUS AS THE CHRIST; PREDICTS HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION; TAKE UP THE CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM!

2/7/26 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, <https://www.ptwente.com> 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

(Mar 8:27-38) Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" [28] So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." [29] He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

- “Christ” is the Greek word; “Messiah,” the Hebrew word. They both mean “Anointed One.”
- *"But who do you say that I am?"* Am I your Lord? – The Lord of: My attitude? My tongue? my time? my remote? my computer mouse?

[30] Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.

- Matthew tells us that Jesus said, “Blessed are you, Simon bar Jonah. Flesh and blood have not revealed this unto you, but My Father which is in heaven. And upon the rock of your confession—the revelation that I am Messiah—I will build My church” (*Matthew 16:17–18*).
- *“not tell anyone”* The disciples do not have the right view of the Messiah yet. **Do you?**

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

[31] And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- Jesus did not begin to teach His disciples about rejection, suffering, or the Cross until it was first revealed to them that He is the Christ. So, too, in my opinion, it is a mistake to try to explain the necessity of the Cross to those who do not first understand that Jesus is the Christ. Our first objective in sharing with people must be that they understand who Jesus is

[32] He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

- The original language makes it clear that Peter continually rebuked Him. “Come on, Lord,” Peter could have said, “Cut out this talk about crucifixion and rejection, suffering and pain. You are the Christ. Let us talk about health and wealth, prosperity and the kingdom!” But there is no crown without the Cross. Jesus knew the Cross was part of the plan from the beginning of the world to provide for our redemption. Jesus always sees the big picture.
- *“began to rebuke Him”* Peter thought that God was speaking to him, but he was really speaking as inspired by Satan. Peter’s comments did not agree with Scripture.
- **Do you test the things you think that God is telling us, do insure that these things agree with the written Word**

[33] But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- **You have it all wrong, Peter... Men are concerned about the material.** God is concerned about the eternal. Men are concerned about prosperity. God is concerned about sanctity. Men are concerned about power. God is concerned about purity.” Only moments earlier, Peter had been a heavyweight prophet, having been given revelation so substantial that the entire church would be built upon it. But here, he is totally off the wall. This encourages me greatly because sometimes I share things I believe are truly the heart of the Lord—only to turn around and say something else that makes me wonder why I even said it. Do you think the Father said, “Oh no! If I had known Peter would say that, I would have given revelation to James or John!”? No, He knew Peter. But because God the Father was not taken aback by Peter’s mistake, I understand He makes room for our humanity. Peter would still go on. God was far from finished with him.

[34] When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

- Jesus spoke not of self-denial, but of denying oneself. Between the two lies a monumental difference.
- *"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"*

- This is our Lord's outline of the process of discipleship. Here, in his own words, we look at what it means to be a disciple.

[35] For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

- **The more you live for yourself, the more miserable you will be.** We have all found this to be true to one degree or another. If you want to feel miserable, start thinking about yourself. Wonder how you are coming across, how you are doing, how you are feeling. When we take the temperature of how we are doing, what we are feeling, what we are thinking, we lose the very essence of what it means to truly live. It is in saving others that we so often save ourselves. It is in helping others that we help ourselves. It is in giving to others that we get ourselves. It is when we die to self that we find life.

[36-37] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? [37] Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

- **Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation;** of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. We would not sell our soul to Satan for a billion dollars. And yet in actuality, we often give it away whenever we allow some cheap trinket, momentary pleasure, or earthly relationship to come between the Lord and us.

[38] For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

- **There is no such thing as closet Christians, secret saints, disguised disciples.** It has always been this way... "Where are you?" God called to Adam—not because He could not find Adam, but because He wanted Adam to come forward to admit his sin and his need to get right (see Genesis 3:9). "Who is on the Lord's side?" Moses asked the Israelites. The sons of Levi stood with Moses publicly, even though to do so was out of sync with the rest of the tribes (*Exodus 32:26*). "*Who is on the Lord's side?*" asked Joshua as the people were challenged publicly to make a stand (see Joshua 24:15). "How long will you halt between two opinions?" asked Elijah. "If Baal be god, serve him. But if Jehovah be God, serve ye Him," calling people to make a public decision (*1 Kings 18:21*). Every man Jesus called, He called publicly.

APPLICATION:

- **First Step** – "**let him deny himself**" – Not hate himself, but deny himself. "Deny" means to "**disavow any connection with something**, to state that **you are not connected in any way with whatever is in view.**" Think of Peter's denial of Jesus, that is exactly what he did. To deny yourself means **to give up your rights to run your life.** To submit yourself to His leadership, to His Lordship." This is fundamental to all discipleship. There can be no discipleship apart from it.
- **The second step** - "Let him deny himself, and **take up his cross...**" What does "take up his cross" mean? Many people think that a cross is any kind of trial or hardship you are going through, or any kind of handicap you must endure -- like a mother-in-law, or a ding-a-ling neighbor or a physical handicap. "But that is not what Jesus means. The cross was something different. **The cross stood for something in the life of Jesus connected with shame and humiliation.** It was a criminal's cross on which he was hung. It was a place of degradation, where he was demeaned and debased. **It stands forever as a symbol of those circumstances and events in our experience which humble us, expose us, offend our pride, shame us, and reveal our basic evil. It is the cross which brings this out.** Any circumstance, any incident which does this to us, Jesus says, if we are a disciple, we are to welcome. That is His meaning. **"Take up your cross, accept it, glory in it, cling to it, because it is something good for you.** It will reduce you to the place where you will be ready to receive the gift of the grace of God." That is why the cross is so valuable to us.
- **The third step is, "Follow me."** This really means, "Obey me." It takes us so long to understand that if disobedience is the name of the game before we are Christians, then certainly obedience is the name of the game after we become Christians. It must be. Our Lord is not talking about perfection as a disciple; he is simply telling us what discipleship means, what it involves. It involves following Him. It means choosing to do or say what He commands us to do or say. This is what the disciples did. They obeyed him, and they were taught to look to Him for whatever it took to make it possible

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court. Key 2026 Cabinet Members & Officials:

- Vice President: **J.D. Vance**
- Secretary of State: **Marco Rubio**
- Secretary of the Treasury: **Scott Bessent**
- Secretary of Defense (War): **Pete Hegseth**
- Secretary of Homeland Security: **Kristi Noem**
- Attorney General: **Pam Bondi**
- Secretary of Commerce: **Howard Lutnick**
- Secretary of Education: **Linda E. McMahon**
- Secretary of Agriculture: **Brooke L. Rollins**
- Director of the CIA: **John Ratcliffe**
- Director of National Intelligence: **Tulsi Gabbard**
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**
- Secretary of Transportation: **Sean Duffy**
- Secretary of Energy: **Chris Wright**
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs: **Doug Collins**
- Administrator of the EPA: **Lee Zeldin**
- White House Chief of Staff: **Susie Wiles**

BENEATH THE CROSS Clephane/Maker - Maranatha (3:08)

**I Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty Rock within
a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the
noontide heat and the burden of the day.**

2 Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess, the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

**3 I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place: I ask no other sunshine than the
sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss; my sinful self
my only shame, my glory all the cross.**

SECRETARY OF WAR PETE HEGSETH – SPEAKER COMMENTS AT 2026 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:

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