



SERMON DISCUSSION

How Losing Helps You Win

Quotable Moments:

- We get to choose whether we follow Jesus. We don't get to choose how we follow.
- Jesus is the King who came to reverse the order of everything.

Scripture: Mark 8:27-29,31-35

Key Things You Heard:

- At every point along the journey of following Jesus -- the point isn't actually what God is asking us to do. The point of the journey is who we're becoming.
- When we read about Jesus, we see Him with authority, but the real question is, do we see Him as our authority?
- Self-improvement asks the question: How can following Jesus make things better for me? Following Jesus asks the question: How is following Jesus changing and impacting me?
- The essence of following Jesus is self-denial, not self-improvement.
- Following Jesus will cost you something -- but refusing to follow Jesus always costs you more.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for being my Savior, Forgiver and Friend. I know that without that, I could not have a relationship with you. I also thank you for being Messiah, Christ, and Lord. I decide in advance to follow you, without regard to what it may cost me. I trust you that you will take care of me and I commit to following you. Thank you for giving me the power to follow you and promising your presence every step of the way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Moving Forward:

- Memorize Mark 8:35
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend. Go to rivertown.cc or the RCC App.

Questions for Group Discussion:

First Minutes: Talk about something difficult you experienced as a result of following Jesus?

- Do you know anyone who has experienced persecution for following Jesus? What did it cost them? What did they gain?
- Read Mark 8:29, 31-33. What is surprising about this exchange between Jesus and Peter? Why do you think Jesus used such strong language?
- What are some examples of living life focused on the "concerns of God" rather than "human concerns"?
- Read Mark 8:34. Does everyone bear the same cross, or does "denying yourself and taking up your cross" look different for each of us? How might we know what God is calling us to deny?
- What do you know about the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer? He wrote, "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." How did Bonhoeffer live that out? How does that challenge you?
- Read Mark 8:35. What are some ways we try to "save our life"? What does Jesus mean by losing our life for the gospel? What might Jesus be calling you to do this week? What might that cost you?
- What area would you like the group to pray for you in?