



## PART 2: FOLLOW JESUS

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### Sermon Notes

**Text:** Mark 8:31-38

#### Intro:

**APA's purpose statement:** *Helping each other follow Jesus at home, in our city and around the world.*

The church is not:

- A social club to help people make friends; though friendship is important.
- A Jesus fan club, though we think highly of Jesus.
- A distributor of religious goods and services, or a community that only meets feet needs; though we love serving each other.
- A place where the “customer” is always right. Jesus is always right, so we follow him.

The church is a community of people helping each other follow Jesus.

**Mark 8:31-38** - Jesus' explanation of what it takes to be his follower

Jesus' call to follow him is both an invitation and a severe warning. It is a matter of life and death (salvation).

### 1. Give up your own way

Adam and Eve chose their own way of wisdom when reaching for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We need to resist that temptation and trust God's wisdom.

### 2. Take up your cross

Following Jesus includes self-denial and self-sacrifice.

#### Galatians 2:20, 5:24

The other side of the coin: The cross, designed as a humiliating defeat, has become a symbol of victory.

#### Colossians 2:15

### 3. ...and follow me

Following Jesus goes beyond theology and morality. Jesus shows us the way to live.

#### How will APA help you follow Jesus?

**Teach:** Teach the way of Jesus

**Model:** Show the way of Jesus

**Create environments:** Offer opportunities and experiences to help you practice the way of Jesus.

#### Resources:

1. Sermon study guide: go to [apaonline.ca/sermons](http://apaonline.ca/sermons)
2. Spiritual practices resource page: [apaonline.ca/followjesus](http://apaonline.ca/followjesus)

#### Conclusion:

## Connect Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What are your feelings about going to the dentist? Fear? Joy? Anxiety? Relief? Why?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

### Discussion:

1. Read Mark 8:31-38 and Matthew 16:24-26. What stands out to you about Jesus' words? What normally comes to mind when you think of following Jesus? What do you think Jesus means by the words "take up your cross"?
2. Read Galatians 2:20 & 5:24. In what way have we been "crucified with Christ?" *How* do we nail our "sinful nature to his cross"?
3. Following Jesus entails many things:
  - a) *New beliefs*: What are some new beliefs you've developed as a follower of Jesus? What are some old beliefs you had to give up?
  - b) *New morals*: What's included in Jesus' moral code? How does it differ from generally accepted moral codes of our culture?
  - c) *New habits/rhythms (spiritual disciplines)*: What habits and rhythms do you think are important in following Jesus? How are you doing implementing them? What are some additional ones you could work on?

### Practice:

Jesus says, "Give up your own way...and follow me." What is something that Jesus is asking you to give up? A habit? An attitude? A belief? A distraction? What steps will you take this week to obey him?

We all need help following Jesus. Who can you ask to help you obey Jesus in this issue?

### Pray: