

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

The Way of the Cross

Mark 8:31-9:1

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Mk. 8:31, Then he began to teach them that it was necessary for the Son of Man to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. [32] He spoke openly about this. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33] But turning around and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns."

The PROMISED One would be built upon in many ways through the O.T. But there are two primary PASSAGES & PICTURES of the Messiah

- Isaiah 53 – Messiah Suffering Servant (Isa. 51-53), the earthly sufferer.
- Daniel 7 – Messiah as Son of Man, The triumphant heavenly redeemer.

In Mark 8 Jesus: uses Daniel's TITLE ("Son of Man") but describes Isaiah's MISSION (suffering, rejection, death, vindication) and frames suffering as a divine "must" (dei—a necessity in God's plan)

Peter rebukes Jesus for HERESY. Why would Peter think this is heresy?

Because Peter's Messiah theology is Daniel 7 (Son of Man) CENTERED:

- Triumphalist
- Nationalistic
- Power-oriented

Secular worldviews teach:

- HAPPINESS comes through SELF-ACTUALIZATION
- FREEDOM comes through removing LIMITATIONS
- IDENTITY comes through SELF-DEFINITION

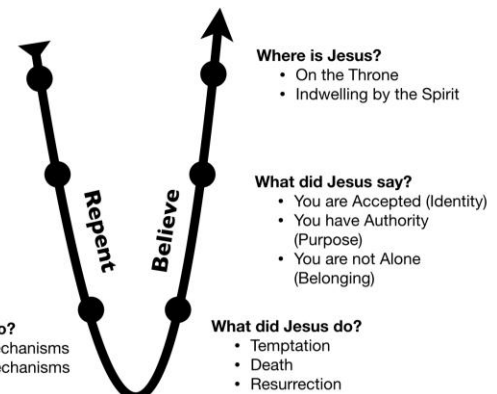
Jesus is saying something radically different: LOSE yourself to find yourself:

- You lose the FALSE self. You find the TRUE self
- You surrender control. You gain wholeness
- You give up autonomy. You receive identity
- You lay down your life.
God gives it back to you fuller than before

Where are you?
• Afraid
• Angry
• Ashamed

Who are you listening to?
• Self - Defensive
• Satan - Doubting
• Society - Distracted

What did you do?
• Coping Mechanisms
• Control Mechanisms



Q: Where are you resisting the death Jesus is calling you to make because you fear the loss but have forgotten the resurrection?

- Maybe it's a RELATIONSHIP you can't fix.
- Maybe it's a PLACE you feel overlooked or misunderstood.
- Maybe it's the loss of CONTROL, the loss of a dream, the loss of a timeline.
- Maybe it's a season where God feels SILENT.

When we SURRENDER to the WORK of Christ in us, when we live with the INTENTION of taking up the CROSS, we will experience the Kingdom of God.

Date: Nov. 23rd, 2025

Series: Follow

Title: The Way of the Cross

Primary Passage: Mark 8:31-9:1

Secondary Passage: Isaiah 53, Daniel 7

Big Question: Why does Jesus call us to lose our lives in order to find them?

Big Idea: If God's own movement is a movement of costly love, then following Jesus means embracing that same pattern. We lose our lives not to destroy them, but to find them reshaped by that same love.

Keywords: Love, Cost, Surrender, Cross, Promise, Rebuke, Death, Resurrection, Lose, Gain.

GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions

1. Love and Cost

What has love cost you recently?

How did Christ's costly love for you guide—or invite you— to accept that cost?

2. Scripture Reflection – Read Mark 8:31–9:1

What stands out to you in this passage?

Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus so strongly?

Why does Jesus respond with an even stronger rebuke?

3. Taking Up Your Cross

For you personally: What does it mean to take up the cross and follow Jesus in your current season of life?

How is this verse a promise: "Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me and the gospel will save it"?

4. Death and Resurrection

When have you experienced a kind of "death" (a loss, surrender, or painful letting-go)?

What "resurrection" followed (how did God meet you, change you, or bring new life out of it)?

What area of your life might God be inviting you to lay down at the cross right now?

5. Interceding for Resurrection Power

Who in your life is facing pain or suffering right now that needs God's resurrection power?

Pray for them by name.

Pray for an opportunity to speak, or show, the love and power of Christ to them in their struggle