



Mark 8

“Wherever He Leads I’ll Go”

Reading and Study Guide for the
week of June 4-11, 2023

Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark: *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*
(Mark 8:34)

This week, read Mark 8. On Sunday, June 11: Pastor Gary will be preaching on the theme, “Wherever He Leads, I’ll Go” (Mark 8:34-9:1) Jesus taught His disciples regarding the incompatible nature of following Him halfway. As He still calls us today, He is expecting us to abandon all this world has to offer for the greater treasure of knowing Him.

Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

1. In what ways has your life been different from what you expected?
2. Who rebuked whom? Why? (8:32-33)
3. In what way did Peter have in mind the "things of man" as opposed to the "things of God"? (8:33)
4. What did Jesus do after rebuking Peter? (8:34)
5. What did Jesus want His disciples to do? (8:34-35)
6. Why did Jesus say, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"? (8:34-38)
7. How will Jesus come back to earth? (8:38)
8. What promise was given to Jesus’ audience? (9:1)
9. What does it mean to deny yourself?
10. What does it mean to take up your cross?
11. How can we make sure we "have in mind the things of God"?
12. What do you think Christ wants you to give up for the sake of the gospel?
13. What attitude or practice do you need to change in obedience to Christ?

Life Application Bible Notes

8:32, 33 The Christian life is not a paved road to wealth and ease. It often involves hard work, persecution, deprivation, and deep suffering. Peter saw only part of the picture. Don't repeat his mistake. Instead, focus on the good that God can bring out of apparent evil and the Resurrection that follows the Crucifixion.

8:33 Peter was often the spokesman for all the disciples. In singling him out, Jesus may have been addressing all of them indirectly. Unknowingly, the disciples were trying to prevent Jesus from going to the cross and thus fulfilling his mission on earth. Satan also tempted Jesus to avoid the way of the cross ([Matthew 4](#)). Whereas Satan's motives were evil, the disciples were motivated by love and admiration for Jesus. Nevertheless, the disciples' job was not to guide and protect Jesus but to follow him. Only after Jesus' death and resurrection would they fully understand why he had to die.

8:34 The Romans, Mark's original audience, knew what taking up the cross meant. Death on a cross was a form of execution used by Rome for dangerous criminals. A prisoner carried his own cross to the place of execution, signifying submission to Rome's power. Jesus used the image of carrying a cross to illustrate the ultimate submission required of his followers. He is not against pleasure, nor was he saying that we should seek pain needlessly. Jesus was talking about the heroic effort needed to follow him moment by moment, to do his will even when the work is difficult and the future looks bleak.

8:35 We should be willing to lose our life for the sake of the Good News, not because our life is useless but because nothing—not even life itself—can compare to what we gain with Christ. Jesus wants us to *choose to* follow him rather than to lead a life of sin and self-satisfaction. He wants us to stop trying to control our own destiny and to let him direct us. This makes good sense because, as the Creator, Christ knows better than we do what real life is about. He asks for submission, not self-hatred; he asks us only to lose our self-centered determination to be in charge.

8:36, 37 Many people spend all their energy seeking pleasure. Jesus said, however, that worldliness, which is centered on possessions, position, or power, is ultimately worthless. Whatever you have on earth is only temporary; it cannot be exchanged for your soul. If you work hard at getting what you want, you might eventually have a "pleasurable" life, but in the end you will find it hollow and empty. Are you willing to make the pursuit of God more important than the selfish pursuits? Follow Jesus, and you will know what it means to live abundantly now and to have eternal life as well.

8:38 Jesus constantly turns the world's perspective upside down with talk of first and last, saving and losing. Here he gives us a choice. We can reject Jesus now and be rejected by him at his second coming, or we can accept him now and be accepted by him then. Rejecting Christ may help us escape shame for the time being, but it will guarantee an eternity of shame later.

Chapter 9

9:1 What did Jesus mean when he said that some of the disciples would see the Kingdom of God arrive in power? There are several possibilities. He could have been foretelling his transfiguration, resurrection and ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, or his second coming. The Transfiguration is a strong possibility because Mark immediately tells that story. In the Transfiguration ([9:2-8](#)), Peter, James, and John saw Jesus glorified as the Son of God ([2 Peter 1:16](#)).

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

