

Playing for Team Jesus

Mark 8.31-38

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8.34

A. Denying Oneself

What Denial is NOT:

1. Advice for spiritual super heroes
2. Self-improvement through delayed gratification or personal discipline
3. Seeking out self-destruction
4. Selecting the most distasteful option

What Denial IS:

(The negative example of Peter’s denial in Mark 14.30-31, 66-72)

1. It is to disown our own person (like Peter denies Jesus).
2. It is permanent and final. (*“I don’t know this man”* v14.71)
3. It is not an act of private piety but is lived out in the public context. (Peter denies Jesus in front of others.)

B. Bearing a Cross

1. You are renouncing your life (you die).
2. You’ll be denounced/opposed by others (*others* kill you).
3. It’s a public demonstration of God’s reign. (Crucifixion was a public event.)

C. Following Jesus

It’s not about us anymore..... it’s all about JESUS.

Knowing who Jesus is **NOT ENOUGH**.(8.29)

The invitation is **FOR EVERYONE**.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8.34-35



What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?