

Series: Rooted: A Lifestyle of Radical Dependence

Sermon: Rooted in Self-Denial and Sacrifice

Scripture: Mark 8:31-38 (ESV)

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Mark 8:31-38 (ESV)

31 *And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

32 *And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*

33 *But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."*

34 *And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*

35 *For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.*

36 *For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?*

37 *For what can a man give in return for his soul?*

38 *For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

The Message of Matthew, Michael Green

Followers of Jesus must not forget that there is inevitably a lifelong battle to fight. They are called to follow their master in suffering, but are promised to share in his triumph. That note of spiritual struggle is often absent from the contemporary church, but it is a mark of authentic Christianity."

Fight against worldly and even Christian sub-cultural confusion (v. 31-33)

Embrace and expect the suffering that accompanies following the Messiah. (v. 34)

Basic Christianity, p. 132 John Stott

All too many people still ignore Christ's warning and undertake to follow him without first pausing to reflect on the cost of doing so. The result is the great scandal of so called nominal Christianity. In countries to which Christian civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin, veneer of Christianity. They have allowed themselves to become a little bit involved; enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion. It protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life, while changing its place and shape to suit their convenience. No wonder cynics complain of hypocrites in the church and dismiss religion as escapism."

The seemingly paradoxical nature of Christianity leads to a flourishing of life and soul. (v. 35-38)