



Week 2 of Lent – Following Jesus When It Costs Everything

Text: Mark 8:27–38

Big Idea: Following Jesus is not simply about knowing who He is—it is about surrendering everything to Him.

Opening Question: When you hear the phrase “that cost me everything,” what comes to mind? Was it worth it?

1. The Defining Question (vv. 27–30) Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?”
 - Why do you think Jesus moves from “Who do people say I am?” to “Who do you say I am?”
 - What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and personally following Him?
 - In today’s culture, how can it be easy to “follow” Jesus casually (like following someone on social media)?
2. The Shocking Reality (vv. 31–33) Jesus predicts suffering and death. Peter resists the idea of a suffering Messiah.
 - Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus?
 - What expectations do people today sometimes place on Jesus?
 - Have you ever struggled with God’s plan because it did not match your expectations?
3. The Cost of Discipleship (vv. 34–35) “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
 - What does it practically mean to “deny yourself”?
 - What might “taking up your cross” look like in everyday life?
 - Why is surrender so difficult for us?
4. The Value of the Soul (vv. 36–38) “What good is it to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?”
 - What are some things people pursue today that can slowly cost them their soul?
 - What are you most tempted to hold onto instead of surrendering to Christ?
 - How does an eternal perspective change what feels important right now?

Take a quiet moment and consider:

Where am I resisting the cross?

Where am I trying to follow Jesus without full surrender?

What is one area I need to place back into God’s hands this week?

Take time to pray