

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 9TH–10TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

THE COST (MARK 8:34–38) IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

Jesus spoke to His disciples of His identity as the Messiah and of His purpose: to suffer, die, and rise again after three days to purchase salvation for all who would repent and believe.

- Jesus will now tell His disciples and the crowds what their identity and purpose are.

AS I, SO YOU

Jesus tells His disciples and the crowds that following Him will require of them the same things that are required of Him. Their identity will be followers of Jesus whose purpose is to deny themselves and, if necessary, die for Jesus.

- **Jesus never asks anything of us that He has not done.**

TRULY COUNTERCULTURAL

The sinful desires of the human heart have always manifested in narcissism (**it is all about me**) and hedonism (**it is about my pleasure found in this world**). Following Jesus says it is all about Him and the eternal joy of the world to come.

- **We never lose anything following Jesus.**

CHANGING MINDSETS

Jesus says a life worth living is not about accumulating stuff; it is about Him and seeing people move out of the darkness of this world into the light of the gospel.

- Stuff gets stolen, rusts, and decays. Jesus calls us to reconsider what life is truly about. Will we let go of the **temporary** to pursue the **eternal**?

ASHAMED OF JESUS AND HIS WORD?

Jesus does not only warn about denying Him; He also warns about denying His Word. His Word is full of indicatives (who we are in Jesus) and imperatives (how we live for Jesus).

- Our culture wants us to deny who we are in Jesus and how we live for Jesus. **True Christians are not ashamed or silent.**

WHERE IS OUR ALLEGIANCE?

All non-Christian cultures deny God in some way by seeking “lovers” with whom they can deny the allegiance owed to their Creator and Savior.

- It is easy to succumb to the culture, but this ends in eternal death. **Allegiance to Jesus is hard but ends with eternal life.**

THE CHRIST (MARK 9:1–13) CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT

Mark 9:1 has confused many for generations. The simplest explanation is that Jesus is referring to the transfiguration, which will happen six days later. Peter, James, and John will be on the mountain and see Jesus in His glory, which will anticipate the day Jesus will come to usher in His eternal Kingdom and judgment.

AFTER SIX DAYS

Probably six days after Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah, Peter, James, and John join Jesus on Mount Hermon (probably), and Jesus is transfigured (*metamorphosis*). His preincarnate glory (before He took on human flesh) is revealed.

- **Mark shows us who Jesus truly is.**

A LOT OF MOSES STUFF GOING ON

Moses was on the mountain for six days. His face was glowing, reflecting the glory of God. A cloud surrounded Him. Jesus is the new Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15), but instead of reflecting God's glory, **Jesus is God and His glory comes from His very essence.**

- **Do we see Jesus for who He is?**

ELIJAH AND MOSES

The Law and the Prophets all point to the coming of Jesus as the Savior of the world and as the King of kings and Lord of lords. All of history points to Jesus. **All of the Bible points to Jesus.**

- **Jesus and His redeeming work are the point of the Bible and history. Do we get it?**

PETER BEING PETER

Peter does not always know what to say or do, but that does not keep him from speaking out. Even though he is terrified, Peter wants to extend the experience by building tabernacles for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

- **Sometimes it is good to just be silent and still when God is at work.**

THE FATHER SPEAKS

If there is any doubt as to who Jesus is, the Father makes it clear that Jesus is His beloved Son. Because the Father has sent His Son and the Son speaks for the Father, the Father commands all humanity to listen to Him.

- Our culture allows many voices to speak to it. **The only voice with real authority is Jesus'.**

COMING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

As quickly as Jesus was transfigured, everything returns to normal, and Jesus is left with His three friends. Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about this until He rises from the dead. The time to let the world know about Jesus was approaching, though the three still do not get that Jesus would die and resurrect.

ACCORDING TO PLAN

The three change the subject and ask Jesus about the order of God's plan of redemption. Elijah would come (symbolically in John the Baptist) to prepare the way (restore all things) for the Messiah. John would suffer and die before the Messiah also suffers and dies.

- **Suffering often accompanies salvation.**

THE CONFLICT (MARK 9:14–29) CONTINUED CONFLICTS

Jesus returns to the rest of the disciples to see a dispute between them and the scribes. The crowd sees Jesus, is amazed (we do not know why), and runs to Him. Jesus asks what is going on. The father of a demonized boy answers that he is seeking help for his son, but the disciples could not drive the demon out.

THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURE OF DEMONS

Once again, demons seek to steal, kill, and destroy. While no reason for the demonization is given, the boy is deaf, mute, and has convulsions.

- **Reminder: The Bible tells us about demons and their hatred of God and mankind. We worship Jesus, not demons.**

HOW LONG?

While Jesus was patient with His disciples and the people, He sometimes expressed proper frustration with them. The frustrations seemed to have two sources: their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures (OT) and their lack of faith.

- **Growth in understanding the Bible and faith in Jesus should be constant.**

“IF YOU CAN?”

If Jesus' disciples could not cast out the evil spirit, maybe Jesus could not either. The father wavered in his faith, but he still knew to come to Jesus.

- **Jesus encourages us to come to Him, no matter how big or small our faith. Little is much in the hands of Jesus. Small faith in Jesus can move big mountains.**

ALL POWER BELONGS TO JESUS

Jesus did not want this healing to become a spectacle, so He rebuked the unclean spirit and cast it out. This demon tried to kill the boy on its way out, but Jesus would not permit it. Jesus set the boy free and gave him life.

- **The name of Jesus still has power to set us free and give us eternal life.**

“WHY COULDN'T WE...?”

The disciples were puzzled as to why they could not drive out the demon. Jesus had given them authority to do just that (6:7–13). He told them this kind only comes out through prayer.

- This seems to indicate, at least in this instance, **the disciples were depending on their power and not on God's power.**

WHO ARE WE? WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

- Until we can answer these questions, we may be busy, but **we will not be satisfied**, and **we will not know peace.**
- Countercultural Christianity shows the world what real purpose and hope are.
- Following Jesus **magnifies the eternal over the temporary** for the good of all and God's glory.

IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST JESUS!

- **Jesus is the eternal and beloved Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, the perfect God/Man, the Savior of the world through His death and resurrection, and the reigning King of kings and Lord of lords. He is preparing a place for His people and will return and make all things new.**

WARFARE LIVING

- Until Jesus returns, Christians live in a hostile culture as odd strangers in it.
- God has given everything we need to thrive: **understanding of the Bible and growth in faith.**
- **Proclaiming the name of Jesus tears down dividing walls, sets captives free, and grants eternal life as we depend on God's power.**