



Life of Christ Series
Trusting in God's Divine Plan
Mark 8:31-9:1

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When we as a church declare to be a Christian-as in little-CHRIST; we as followers of Jesus learn from Jesus to be more like Jesus no matter the cost. But do we truly believe this? Are we hesitant to trust what God calls us to? What would we do if we were Peter?

Mark 8:31-9:1

"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." 9:1 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

1. Jesus' SUFFERINGS and DEATH were divinely ORDAINED. (v 31-33a)

- Jesus knew His MISSION as the Son of Man.
- Jesus understood OLD TESTAMENT Scriptures.

“Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. 14 As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— 15 so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand. Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought up peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? 9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

2. Peter FAILS to accept Jesus’ Suffering and MISUNDERSTANDS Jesus’ Death. (v 33b)

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

- Satan was at WORK even among Jesus' own disciples, not only in Judas but even in Peter.
- Satan is at work even among our CHURCH and YOU today.
- Satan is a CREATED being with LIMITED powers.
- Satan will always work AGAINST you.

"In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

2 Corinthians 4:4

3. Only a Person Willing to DENY SELF can legitimately Claim to be DISCIPLES of Jesus Christ. (v 34-38)

- Denying self is LIVING for Christ and DYING for Christ.
- Those who pursue a LIFE of ease, comfort, and acceptance by the world will NOT find eternal life. On the other hand,
- Those who GIVE UP their lives for the sake of Christ and the gospel will FIND IT.
- Jesus demands DISCIPLESHIP from his trusted followers.

Those who reject the demands of discipleship prove themselves to be ashamed of Jesus Christ and the truth he taught, thus not redeemed from sin at all. Those people who trust in God's Divine Plan and truly follow Jesus with their life who will stand when Christ comes with power.