

Follow Me

1 Samuel 8:1-22; Mark 8:31-38 / Isaiah 53:1-12

I. Jesus Explained the Cost of Redemption

A. Jesus began to explain His mission and the implications of His passive and active obedience to God; peace with God would be expensive beyond the dreams of His disciples. “And *he began to teach* them, that the Son of man must *suffer many things*, and *be rejected* of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and *be killed*, and after three days *rise again*.” (MARK 8:31)

B. Jesus is the Suffering Servant of prophecy; since the Eden event, God’s people have known a terrible price must be paid for redemption and restoration. “Who hath believed our report? and *to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?* For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: *he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But *he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:* the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* He was *oppressed*, and he was *afflicted*, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for *he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.* And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. Yet *it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin*, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for *he shall bear their iniquities.* Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; *because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*” (ISAIAH 53:1-12)

C. When Jesus removed the ambiguity about His mission, even the boldest of His followers could not cope with the implications. “And he spake that saying openly. And *Peter* took him, and *began to rebuke him*.” (MARK 8:32)

D. On its own, the human mind does not think the way God thinks. “But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, *he rebuked Peter*, saying, Get thee behind me, *Satan*: for *thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men*.” (MARK 8:33) “So then *they that are in the flesh cannot*

please God.” (ROMANS 8:8) “But *the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit* of God: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*” (1 CORINTHIANS 2:14) *Compare Adam and Eve in the Garden with Jesus in the Wilderness.*

II. Then Jesus Explained the Cost of Discipleship

A. The way of the Redeemed is in the path of the Redeemer; discipleship is expensive. “And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*” (MARK 8:34) “Enter ye in at the strait gate: *for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*” (MATTHEW 7:13-14)

B. The faithful way is totally counterintuitive. “For *whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.*” (MARK 8:35)

C. Success is only genuine when it lasts; in war, only the last battle counts. “For *what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” (MARK 8:36)

D. Jesus faced the same temptation which carries people away into destruction. “Again, *the devil* taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, *and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;* And saith unto him, *All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.* Then saith Jesus unto him, *Get thee hence, Satan:* for it is written, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*” (MATTHEW 4:8-10)

III. What Value Do You Place on Your Soul?

A. Each person must count the personal cost of faithfulness to Jesus. “Or *what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (MARK 8:37)

B. Jesus is returning to set all things right; what will He see when He calls you to stand before Him at God’s throne on Judgment Day? “*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*” (MARK 8:38)

C. What will be on your mind as you stand before the Great White Throne? “But *God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*” (GALATIANS 6:14)