



THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

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The Way of
the Cross

Setting of Passage

- Most important Question
 - Who do people say that I am
 - Who do you say that I am
- Confession – you are the Christ
 - promised by God
 - Son of God come to save
- Clear route of salvation

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“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. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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.” Mark 8:31-33

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- Rebuke of Peter
 - our way of doing this – ‘telling God how it should happen in our lives and world’
- Set our Minds on.....
 - Seat of the Pants vs GPS and guidance
 - Things of Man – focus on self and today
 - Things of God – set on God’s Word, Your Will be Done, for us not about us, eternal
- How you can participate in the Work of God on your behalf

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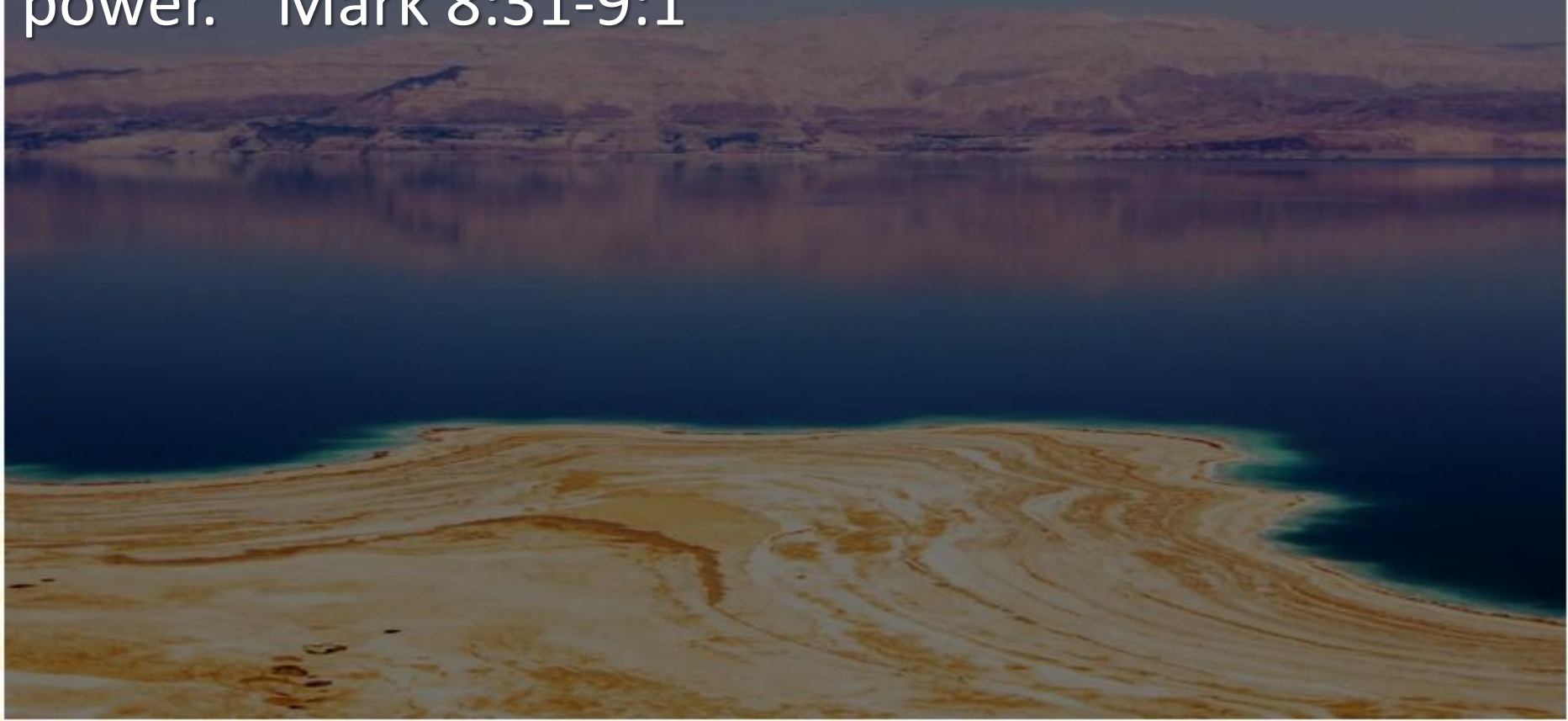
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“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? 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.”

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“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.” Mark 8:31-9:1



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1. Critical Steps in Following Jesus

a) denying self

- involves my heart & practice
- change in heart critical
- realizing my instincts on what brings satisfaction, fulfillment, peace, joy – wrong

b) take up cross

- participating in Jesus death and resurrection
- new heart, new life, made alive
- payment made – restored to life in Christ

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- believe in heart & confess with mouth
- forgiven, adopted, gifted, commissioned

c) Follow Me

- GPS – Word of God
- living up to who you already are
- reordered priorities, how we operate, what guides our lives and decisions different
- ambassadors, lights, children
- hearts & treasure issue

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2. Clear Contrasts – one or the other

a) Trying to Save your life (soul) will lead to loss

- do enough good on your own
- work on self, clean up
- find significance and happiness your way
- well intentioned yet lost on route
- be well thought of, conquer world, get stuff

*Takes humility and surrender to die to self, agree that you are a sinner in need of a savior.

b) Gather on Earth – Lost in Eternity

- “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?”
 - one way to salvation – Jesus & the Cross
 - no deals made to trade stuff and status for our sin and guilt
 - eternal significance – huge consequences to this decision
- * What you treasure there is your heart

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c) Clear contrast in God's way and the World's

- "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."
- will seem foolish to the world
- others will argue, entice, desire you adopt their values and beliefs
- inner voice – can you really trust God to.....
- consequences are significant

d) Dying to Self Brings Life

- “whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.”

- salvation by grace through faith

- confess, accept, believe and walk

*no one can serve two masters – you have a choice

3. Promise of Kingdom

- Jesus promises some of them would see the power of the cross, this relationship, Holy Spirit leading and equipping.

So What

1. You all have to answer that significant question,
“Who do You say I am?”
 - evidence to consider – accounts of Jesus
 - claims and truth to encounter – stakes
 - personally – tasted and seen
2. Jesus is clear on the terms. If you believe, here is
how it is lived out
 - not a hidden, bait and switch thing

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3. Have you Died to Self?

- obedient in the baptism experience
- daily, regularly immersed in truth (washing of the Word) feeding and growing in new life?
- there will be lies we have agreed with around purpose, satisfaction, joy, suffering, persecution that need to be confronted

4. Have you Taken up the Cross

- come to relationship through Jesus alone?

5. Check Your Heart in the Contrasts

- reminded – cannot save myself
- renewed – worlds things need to stay in check
 - stuff, power & significance – temporary
- re-aligned – not ashamed of Gospel
 - society won't understand
- restored – amazing power in Kingdom
 - eternal reward for this truth