



Mark: Following Jesus Immediately – To Save My Life

Introduction: One of the most important parts of learning, is what you continue to learn after you think you know it all. The disciples came to believe/know that Jesus was the Messiah. That's when the real learning began.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to pass a big test to do something you really wanted to do? Would you say you learned more after that test or before?
2. Read **Mark 8:27-30** How does the first answer compare to what we read in Mark 6:15? What does Peter's answer reveal and why does Jesus tell them not to tell anyone?
3. Read **Mark 8:31-33** What does it mean when it says Peter rebuked Jesus? Why would he do that? What does Jesus response tell us?
4. Read **Mark 8:34-38** What does Jesus say His followers will have to do? What do you think the original hearers thought when they heard the part about picking up a cross? What does denial of self look like?
5. How does the way the phrase, "my cross to bear," usually miss what Jesus is saying?
6. What does the paradox that Jesus says in vs 35 mean? What are things that we are tempted to gain at the risk of our souls? Is there a tension between not being ashamed of following Jesus and being obnoxious? What is Jesus calling us to here?

Shaping Your Mind – *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me.. Mark 8:34*

Moving Forward – Throw off anything that competes with Jesus for your allegiance.