

Following Jesus Means Suffering

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Mark 8:27-32

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Synopsis:

Lots of people like to *talk* about Jesus

Some people *confess* Jesus

Very few people *follow* Jesus

The purpose of having Jesus in our heart is not to *talk* about Jesus, or to *confess* Jesus, but to *follow* Jesus. *Following* Jesus is what Dallas Willard calls “the Great Omission from the Great Commission.” My prayer today is that you would follow Jesus. Why? Because that’s where the life is.

I.

Talkers of Jesus

Mark 8:27 “Who do people say that I am?”

Point: Lots of people like to talk about Jesus.

READ 8:27-28

What’s Happened?

- healing, teaching, storm stilling, feeding 5,000/4,000, walk on water
- They wonder about Jesus

*What happens in our life? We wonder about Jesus

Where Are They?

- Caesarea Philippi (25 miles north)
- Baal, Pan, Augustus = pagan culture

*Where are we? Middle of pagan culture

-watch the Oscars tonight:

No Time for Old Men

There Will Be Blood

-read the books: Hitchens *god Is Not Great*

(contrast D’Souza *What’s So Great About Christianity*)

-politics

Question and Answer Time: Who's Jesus? Wonder and culture

-John Baptist (now dead), Elijah, prophets

-Mal 4:5 READ

-Mark 6:14-15 READ Herod Antipas

*Everyone has opinions

Who's Jesus for us?

Good man = but says he's God

Kook = maybe, but did great things

Reduced Jesus (Jesus Seminar) = fit our size

Myth = doesn't work (wrong genre of literature)

*Embrace all = our culture

II.

Confessors of Jesus

Mark 8:29 "But who do you say that I am?"

Point: Confessing Jesus isn't following Jesus.

READ Mark 8:29-30

Confess for them:

-*you* in emphatic position = "*You*, who do you say?"

-Peter gets the right answer = Messiah

military king coming to throw pagans out and establish

Yahweh's rule (Jer 23:5; Psalms of Solomon 17)

*Gets the right religious answer, but clueless

Confess for us:

-traditional = Apostles Creed

-contemporary = "Jesus is my Lord and Savior"

*Did I get the right answer?

*Moved from *talk* about Jesus to *confess* Jesus, but clueless

III.

Followers of Jesus

Mark 8:34 "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves"

Point: Followers follow Jesus into new life.

READ Mark 8:31-34

Here we get to followers (Willard *Great Omission*)

Life comes not from talk, confess, but follow

Follow for them = follow and suffer

Follow:

-John 6:66-68 people leave Jesus

-Peter: "Where would we go.
You have the words of eternal life."

Suffer:

Mark writing in 60's in Rome

-Nero blames fire on Christians

-burns them and kills them

-Peter and Paul are martyred

*Suffer was real

*Follow meant doing something that brought suffering, but meant eternal life (now and forever)

Follow for us = follow and suffer

Suffer:

-Jeff =

paycheck, tithe, criticism, illness, feet hurt,
no weekends

-Some do suffer hardship, death (Kenya)

*POINT: not to suffer, but to follow

Follow: apprentice to Jesus to bring life to self and others

Sailing metaphor

Practices:

1. Daily reading and prayer = read and meditate, e.g. Thursday
e.g. Sail boat manual
2. Weekly service e.g. Alzheimers sing, Ben dancing; sailed 2x
last week, this afternoon
3. Weekly worship = enjoy God weekly e.g. last Sunday
quartet e.g. last Saturday's beauty sailing

4. Daily imitate Jesus = pray to become who you are e.g. sailors I want to imitate
5. Regular fellowship = small group, friends encourage e.g. Carl from Colorado, people from Geneva
6. Monthly tithe = give of myself in \$\$
e.g. pay dues and for boats

Talk, Confess, Follow

Jesus wants us not to talk, confess, but follow

That's where the life is