

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

12-16 Dec 2011

## ***LESSON 11 – THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP***

### **INTRODUCTION**

What do you think is the hardest part about being a disciple of Christ?

### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

*Note: Some commentators say that Jesus' teaching of His impending death represents a turning point in His ministry. Verse 8:34 is often quoted as the Mark's foundation of Jesus' teaching. Many of the basic tenants of the Apostle's creed are found in these verses. It has also been summarized, "No cross, no crown."*

Read Mark 8:31-33

1. What 4 specific things does Jesus mention?
2. What might have been Jesus' motive for telling the disciples of His impending death?
3. When Jesus speaks of His death, what does He connect with it?

Read Mark 8: 34-38

4. What is implied in taking up the cross? Gal 6:14
5. What is the only way to save your life (soul)? Vv 35-37 Rom 6:1-14
6. How does the pleasure of the world compare to the value of a soul? Why is it an issue?
7. The Jews had a hard time accepting the concept of a suffering messiah, partly because it was shameful. What does it mean to be "ashamed" of the gospel? What's the cost? Does that mean someone will lose their salvation in this way? (Rom 10:9-11)
8. What is the price of *not* being a disciple? Matt 19:29
9. How does the "prosperity gospel" deal with verse 36? With the unpleasantness of bearing a cross?

### **APPLICATION**

- To what portions of "the world" are you clinging that prevent you from being a true disciple?
- How have you been ashamed of the Gospel in the past? How will that change?

***Discipleship saves us from the tragedy of a wasted life. Yes, there is suffering in taking up a cross to follow Jesus; but that suffering always leads to glory.<sup>1</sup>***

***The cross of Christ appeared to the great body of mankind to be shameful and contemptible. To the Jews it was a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness. Hence vast numbers, whether through shame or fear, did not dare to confess it, and still less to preach it. And therefore it is that St. Paul says (Rom. 1:16), "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (123). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> *The Pulpit Commentary: St. Mark Vol. I.* 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (336). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.