

THE COST TO FOLLOW JESUS  
Mark 8:1-38 (NIV)

*During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup>"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."*

Mark 8:1-3 (NIV)

❖ Dangerous Religious Deceptions:

*The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. <sup>12</sup>He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup>Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. <sup>14</sup>The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup>"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." <sup>16</sup>They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread." <sup>17</sup>Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? <sup>19</sup>When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied. <sup>20</sup>"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." <sup>21</sup>He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"*

Mark 8:11-21 (NIV)

1. The Danger of looking for OUTWARD SIGNS.
2. The Danger of FALSE PIETY.
3. The Danger of FRIENDSHIP with the WORLD.

❖ So, Who is Jesus?

*Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" <sup>28</sup>They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." <sup>30</sup>Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.*

Mark 8:27-31 (NIV)

1. To the WORLD.
2. To His FOLLOWERS.

3. For the WORLD.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 14:6 (NIV)

❖ The Personal Cost of Following Jesus:

*He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." <sup>34</sup>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup>What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup>Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup>If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*

Mark 8:32-38 (NIV)

1. We are called to choose JESUS' WAY over our WANTS.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

2. We are called to DIE to SELF and to be ALIVE in JESUS.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

3. We are called to STAND BOLDY with the MESSAGE of CHRIST.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)