

It's grounded in prayer...

Introduction

Last week, we saw that Jesus' pathway to generosity is intentional. This is a road that he chooses to walk. This week we get a sense of how committed Jesus is to his particular pathway of sacrificial generosity. As a result, we can have great confidence and comfort as we pray his name because he is God's Son and our Savior.

Discussion Questions for Mark 8:31-38

1. What are your most common prayers? Do you have a particular prayer that you say often? How has it been a comfort to you?
2. It's clear that Jesus' talk about his death riles his disciples, especially Peter. Why do you think Peter wants to take him aside to rebuke him? Why is Jesus' reaction to Peter so strong? Whose way has Jesus chosen to follow?
3. We hear Jesus' intentional commitment to God through his next words, "Deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow me." How do you think people reacted to his words? What have you given up to follow Jesus? What crosses have you carried as you've followed him?
4. Consider Jesus next question: Is there any profit in gaining the whole world and yet losing your life? Discuss how differently people answer this question. Why is the call of the world's definition of success so compelling? How may prayer help us silence this siren call?
5. How does this scripture encourage you about Jesus' devotion to God? How does it give you confidence as you pray to him? Is he willing to go the distance for you? If so, are you willing to place your life in his hands? Are you willing to place your time, talent, and treasure in his hands?
6. How may we pray for you this week?

Prayer

Lord, Help me to see all the blessings in my life. I come to you with an open and grateful heart. Teach me to be a good steward of all that I have. Open my eyes and my heart to see all the opportunities around me. Fill my heart and let me respond in every situation with an attitude of worship and a spirit of generosity. Renew my faith as I pray, "God, how are you calling me to give?" Amen.

Next week: John 2:13-21