

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 13, 2015

Passage: Mark 8:34-9:1

Memory Passage: Mark 8:34-37

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 8:34-9:1.** What is significant about Jesus calling the crowd to join the disciples for this section of teaching?
- (b) What does the phrase “come after me” mean? What does the way of Jesus look like (cf. v. 31) and how does that impact those who “come after” him?
- (c) The first requirement for a would-be Jesus follower is to deny oneself. What does this mean? In what ways do you deny yourself as a follower of Christ? How would you explain this to someone to whom you were witnessing?
- (d) How did Jesus deny Himself (cf. 8:31; 9:12; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-8; et. al.)? Does your answer to (c) resemble the way Jesus denied Himself?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 8:34-9:1.** The second requirement for a would-be Jesus follower is to “take up his cross.” What would Mark’s hearers have thought when they heard this phrase? What was the cross to them, and for what did it stand?
- (b) What does it look like for a person to take up his/her cross in Arkansas in 2015?
- (c) How does taking up your cross continue the idea of denying yourself?
- (d) Why is taking up your cross required in order to follow Jesus?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 8:34-9:1.** The third requirement for a would-be Jesus follower is to “follow” Jesus. Is this redundant? Does not one who “comes after” Jesus by definition “follow” Him? Is there a further meaning taught in this step? Explain it.
- (b) What do the four instances of life in v. 35 (“life” twice & “it” twice referring to “life”) refer? Explain your answer.
- (c) How do you lose your life for Jesus? For the sake of the gospel? How does this inform a right view of discipleship?
- (d) Explain the paradox of v. 35 (i.e. how is one’s life only saved by losing it, and how is one’s life lost by saving it?).

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 8:34-9:1.** Of what does your “whole world” consist? In other words, what would your life consist of if it were “perfect and complete”?
- (b) The Greek word translated “soul” in vs. 36-37 is the same word translated “life” in v. 35. Why is it translated differently?
- (c) What is the answer to the question Jesus poses in v. 37? How is this related to v. 36?
- (d) Using your own words, write a paragraph in which you fully explain the teaching of verses 34-37.

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 8:34-9:1.** What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus and His words, and what penalty awaits those who are?
- (b) To what event is referred by the phrase “the kingdom of God after it has come with power?”
- (c) Questions to summarize: What is the relationship between discipleship and Jesus’ death & resurrection? Given Peter’s false understanding of Jesus’ mission (a Messiah who did not suffer or die, cf. v. 32) how do you think he might have described discipleship had Jesus not rebuked him and taught a correct view of what it means to follow Him?
- (d) What ideas, dreams, goals, desires, or expectations do you have that are getting in the way of following Christ? In other words, what idols are keeping you from living a life of self-denial and cross bearing?

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