

**Daily Bible Study**

***“The ‘Original’ Invitation” Part-2***

***Mark 8:34-9:1***

***November 7 - 13, 2010***

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – We return this week to **Mark 8:34-9:1**, *Part-2* of “*The ‘Original’ Invitation*”. In this text we have been seeing that we as human beings have been given an invitation by God Himself and that invitation has been given to us by The Lord Jesus Christ, It is an invitation to follow Him and find eternal salvation. We mentioned last time that there is no more important matter in all of life than to follow Jesus, be saved from your sin along with its penalty and be prepared for the final judgment and life in the eternal state. By way of review from last study: Jesus’ invitation is for those interested and determined in following Him. Only those who are convicted by The Holy Spirit of their sin and feel the burden of its weight (**Matthew 11:28**) are in a position to *desire* to find forgiveness in Jesus. Being a Christian is ultimately about Christ, His person and work...not ours. We must take ownership of our sin and realize that is all we can bring to Jesus and then fully trust in Him alone, the sinless Savior. In order to *come after Jesus* a person must say good bye to *himself*; abandon his sin and sinful thoughts, self-righteousness, will, effort, ambitions and trust and depend on Jesus alone for salvation. A man who *comes after Jesus* for salvation must give up his “independence” and embrace by faith, “dependence” on Christ alone. You don’t strong arm your way to salvation by being more disciplined than the next guy. You realize your inadequacy and fall on Jesus for salvation and He empowers and enables you through the Holy Spirit to do what otherwise you could not do. Let’s again read our entire text: **Mark 8:34-9:1** “*When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”*”

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, give me ears to hear You speak from Your Word this week. Please help me understand this important call of Jesus to follow Him & give me faith & strength to obey it.*

**TUESDAY – Mark 8:35-38** “*For* whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. *For* what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? *For* whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” We noticed the last time from the text that we find verses that begin with “*For*”. There are three of them which I have underlined. These “*For*” verses help to elaborate on the full meaning of this call of Jesus. They point out and illustrate not only the reward and results in following Jesus but they contrast and expose the great loss experienced by those who refuse to *deny themselves*. They also show the folly of a person trying to find salvation in something other than Jesus; for instance material possessions, “*gaining the whole world*”. There is seen in these verses the paradox that in living in a way that appears to be losing in the eyes of the world, a person is actually winning in the eyes of God. As we said last time beloved, the road up is the way down, the way to exaltation is humility and servant hood and the way to the crown is through the cross (**Hebrews 12:2**). We are reminded that the cross remains the main focal point of this entire text and context of **Mark 8**. After years with Jesus, the disciples finally got it; that He is The Messiah and now Jesus explains how The Messiah, The King, establishes His Kingdom and defeats His enemies; not through earthly, political, and even necessarily visible means but through the cross (**Colossians 2:14-15**). We begin to examine these “*For*” statements with the first one in which Jesus declares in **verse 35**. He flat out says that if an individual *desires to save his life* they will *lose it*. We have previously seen that a man must *desire to come after Jesus* but the man described in this verse *desires to save* something else...what is it? *His life*, that is to say, himself. This man is clinging to his sinful self rather than denying and abandoning. He is tenacious in that he clings and holds with fervor to his sin and all things “him”.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to daily deny myself and not hold to my sin and cling to my self effort and pride but rather embrace my bankrupt condition an by faith trust and obey Jesus.

**WEDNESDAY – Mark 8:35-36** “*For* whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. *For* what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Yesterday we ended looking at the power of sin in the depraved heart. A sinner clings to “*himself*” and the gospel calls him to the opposite, to *deny himself*. We are given Biblical illustrations of this man in the “rich fool” of **Luke 12:16-21**. Jesus will go on to describe this type of man with His comments about *gaining the whole world*. This man piles up the worldly goods and possessions CONSTANTLY thinking of none but himself. He imagines prestige, pleasures, and possessions he can acquire will bring him the peace and satisfaction he longs for. He is fatally deceived. He, in his

futile seeking to find his life, loses it. The flip side of the coin is also found in the text as Jesus continues with *but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it*. Note Jesus' words, *my sake* and *the gospels*. The man who *loses his life* by entirely devoting himself to Christ Jesus and the mission, ministry, and service of *His Gospel* will find eternal life. His Gospel is about ministering to others, those in need NOT about serving and pampering oneself. A tremendous passage of hope for the one who has and as Luke records is about the business of *daily* (**Luke 9:23**) losing their life is **Mark 10:28-31**. As mentioned earlier; these behaviors are evidences of a regenerated heart, a truly converted soul BUT the sins and sinfulness describes is something that is still present to some degree even within the heart of the believer. The fact of the matter is that there are an awful lot of earth minded, materialistic Christians and their needs to be sanctification in these areas even among those truly born again. But that does not Change the fact that all true and genuine Christians have seen Jesus as more valuable than anything else and have abandoned all their self effort for salvation. Sacrifice and obedience is painful at times yet Jesus lays claim to that type of devotion by saying it is for "*my sake*". Jesus urges all people hearing Him in this invitation to not make the mistake of chasing and hanging on to "treasure" in this life; turning ones desires inward and not outward. Jesus finishes the thought by saying that you could actually *gain the whole world* (think about it for a moment-everything your heart desires materially) but in the process, *lose his own soul*. There is no profit, no advantage in living for the temporary and forfeiting the eternal.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

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Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, thank You for convicting me of my sin and need of Jesus righteousness. Thanks for sending Him to be my sinless, sufficient Savior. Help me to now and always abandon my self-righteousness and sinful self-sufficiency and depend on Jesus alone.*

**THURSDAY**– **Mark 8:37-38** "*Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*" As we continue to take each part of this text and study it we are reminded of the appeal that was given in **verse 34**. Throughout this entire passage we can hear Jesus' calling men to *deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him*. There is no greater or pressing matter in all of life than what one will do with Jesus invitation. The failure to follow Him in faith and obedience results in total loss; damage that is beyond human understanding; a loss so severe Jesus asks *what will a man give in exchange for his soul?* If we fail to obey this call from Christ we in essence reject Him. This is not a passive "pass it up" type of issue. Jesus calls it a rejection of Him according to His next words *...For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words*. Refusal is a matter of being to proud, again of oneself and therefore being ashamed of Jesus. Incredibly it is Jesus who we are told in Sacred Scripture is *...not ashamed to call them brethren...* (**Hebrews 2:11**). Jesus is not to proud to humbly condescend and make us His brothers as sinful selfish people yet He does call us to renounce our pride and repent of it

and throw ourselves on His mercy and grace. This was the problem with the unbelievers then and now that was illustrated by the Pharisees of Jesus' day, what Jesus labeled *this adulterous and sinful generation*. They were so stubborn and prideful; willfully resisting Christ and His call to humble themselves, renounce and deny themselves and follow Him. If one is ashamed of Jesus in the here and now, *of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels*. If a person is ashamed of Christ and His words to the point that they reject and refuse to obey Christ and Scripture they prove they are not born again at all. For them it will be a horrifying day when Jesus returns for the final time. As faithful as Jesus is to save those who come to Him, He is also faithful to judge the unrepentant who deny Him (**2 Timothy 2:11-13**).

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You that You are faithful to Your word. It is both a comfort and fear to realize. Help me be faithful to obey You and deny myself in this life You have given me.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 9:1** “*And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”* I have mentioned before that some believe this verse to belong to the account which follows (The Transfiguration) and I will explain in more detail this Lord's Day why I believe it goes with this text we have just studied. In the space we have left I might mention that *He said to them...* It appears HE is still addressing the recipients of the invitation and is telling them that some of them *standing here* would not die (*taste death*) until *they see the kingdom of God present with power*. He obviously and without argument by most scholars saying that some hearing Him will not die until they see the *kingdom of God present with power*. Where the difference of opinion lies among students of Scripture is what exactly is Jesus referring to when He speaks of the *Kingdom* and it being *present with power*. There is no doubt that the coming Transfiguration foreshadowed the *Kingdom power*, the Royal Reign of Jesus if you will, as 3 of the disciples were privileged to see and witness some of Christ's Divine glory. But interestingly, even in the text which describes the Transfiguration we read of the event to which I believe Jesus is referring here in our text, the Resurrection and ascension to the right hand (**Mark 9:9-10**). “Matter of fact” dogmatism on this point is not feasible; whether Jesus speaks to The Transfiguration or The Resurrection primarily; it need not be a divisive issue. Suffice to say; its quite possibly more took place in Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension than most Christians fully understand (**Ephesians 1:18-2:7**).

*(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?*

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*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Thanks for Jesus death, burial, resurrection, and ascension for me!*