

# Sermon Notes

“Jesus’ Demanding Call to Pursue Real Life”

Mark 8:34-39

April 12, 2026

6. Make a list of ways in which people try to “gain the world” and thus forfeit eternal life (8:36). Then circle those which are a particular temptation to you, and ask God for the strength to turn away from them. Is there any action you need to take?
  
7. What do you think God wants you to give up for the sake of the gospel?
  
8. What does it mean to be ashamed of Christ? What are the consequences (8:38)? In what ways does Satan tempt us to do the opposite of what Christ wants for us?
  
9. What promise was given to Jesus’ audience (9:1)? How was this fulfilled for those in the original audience? How does the promise of Christ’s second coming and arrival of the kingdom in its full power factor into your daily life?

**Let's Pray:**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 04-12-2026

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 86; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 105; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 87-88.

## Getting Started:

1. How do unrealistic expectations block people from following Jesus?

## Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 8:31-38.

2. What did Jesus want his disciples to do (8:34-35)?
3. What does it mean to deny yourself (8:34)? To take up your cross? To follow Christ? How do these teachings relate to Peter in 8:31-33? How can each of these be applied to your life?
4. In what way can a person both save his life and lose it at the same time (8:35)?
5. According to Jesus, what sort of attitude and behavior characterizes the person who “wants to save his life” (8:35)? Compare verse 35 with the parallel statements in verses 36 and 38 as you answer this.