

July 26, 2015 Mark 8:31-38

Intro:

*Do you trust God?

*Do you know why you trust him?

*Do you know why with both intellectual and personal assurance...head and heart reasons?

*Do you have full confidence that God is greater than all...that he can be trusted in all situations despite any and everything...even if others mock and ridicule and doubt?

*A friend from another state who has been praying along with us and many of you for our little granddaughter Norah sent me this email after I sent him an update regarding her current status.

"Terry I was reading Roman's 8 this morning with Norah in mind. Norah remains subject to the law of Spirit. The spiritual facts will carry the day in Norah's and her parents' journey."

*He is not advocating denying reality, claiming something we want to be true and disregarding what doctors are saying.

*He is saying that the known facts are never all the facts.

*As Os Guinness described the people of faith listed in Hebrews 11...

"Even when the known facts were against God, they trusted and they waited, they waited and they worked, and in this way they called into question the ways of the world of their time and challenged even the impossible. The conclusion of the writer to the Hebrews is that such faith was the very reason God was not ashamed to be their God. Their lesson is a challenge to us: time after time the known facts of our lives and of the world may be against God, but one day all the missing facts will be known too, so our task as his people is to trust and prove him now, in the meantime, whatever the odds, whatever the opposition and however agonizing the suffering at the present moment."

*Is this denial of reality?

*Or is this an affirmation of reality?

*What we say we believe...by putting full confidence in the Bible (as the revealed word of God) and in Christ (as the only way to relationship with God) and as we worship (singing songs of devotion and commitment)...is that God is above all and in all things to be trusted.

*If we do not believe this, and if we are not growing in our believe in this with increasing confidence and intensity...then we are stupid for being here.

*Because even if being here makes us better people...if this is not true...what difference does that make?

*If you are a better person and then you die and the people you were nice to, die...and in our death and theirs...there is nothing else...Nothing but disassembled and rearranged matter and energy...then who cares if you were made a bit nicer by going to a church.

*If Paul Comegy's life is just a fading memory in the minds of other soon to die people and all that is left of him is ash...then we are kidding ourselves by talking about his impact.

*Its like trying to make an impact on the ocean with a shovel.

*But since this is truth...since the gospel is the ultimate good news for humanity...then nothing matters more.

*And learning to trust God is the most urgent of all human endeavors.

*So do you trust God and do you know why you trust him?

*Its okay if you don't right now...its just not okay to be content with less than a full pursuit of him.

*It is vitally important for you and me to give full attention to the question...and the reality behind the question.

Mark 8:31-38

*I said last week we had reached the midpoint in Mark's gospel, Jesus had turned the corner on his ministry and was heading resolutely for the cross.

*The first half of the gospel centers on who Jesus is, the second half on his purpose...what he came to do.

*His prime focus from now on would be to train his 12 and to begin to speak more clearly and more urgently about why he had come as well as what he had really called them to.

*So as soon as Peter says, "you are the Christ" Jesus immediately explains that he has to die.

*And he also explains that they too, must follow him to the cross.

Mark 8:31 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.

*When we began Mark back in January I said that Jesus' favorite title for himself was "Son of Man."

*No one else used this to describe him, it was just for him to use.

*It would have had a startling impact on those who heard it and were aware of the background....

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His

dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Dan. 7:13,14

*The Messiah, who has all authority, glory, power, the one all people everywhere will worship...this is the Son of Man...this was Jesus' favorite self-description.

*He truly was either an egomaniac, crazy, or the Son of Man.

*Of course its clear from his life and words...he was not driven by ego and he was always the most sane man anywhere...He was The Son of Man...the king of an eternal kingdom

*Therein lies the problem...at least for Peter.

*He said that the "Son of Man **must** be rejected, killed, and rise again.

***MUST:**

*Not "likely to, or probable...but **must**, it is necessary...not optional.

*Here's how it will happen...three groups will take part in the plot.

*The elders, Chief priests, and the teachers of the law.

*These three groups made up the Sanhedrin...the Jewish high court.

*He was not lynched by an illegal mob...but there was an official warrant issued for his arrest.
-He was tried and convicted through the legal court systems of his time.

*This was the world system, the government of man...condemning the Savior of the world.

*This was the world of humans, sitting in judgment on the creator of the world.

*But in so doing they (we) would condemn ourselves.

32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

*His boys understood him this time...no parables, no creative communication...just clarity.

*Peter, got it...and he didn't like it...so he rebuked Jesus.

*Rebuke is the same word used when Jesus rebuked demons, Peter was undone by the Lord's clear talk of his death.

*It was inconceivable that that the Messiah would suffer...the Messiah would save his people, conquer his enemies, vanquish evil, overcome and overpower...there was no room in any of this for suffering and dying.

*So Peter...rebuked Jesus...because Jesus was clearly wrong.

*Imagine it...Peter pulled Jesus aside...

*"Uh, can I talk to you...in private..."

*"Look Jesus...you've got this all wrong...clearly you don't understand the role of the Messiah..."

*He had just answered Jesus when he asked "Who am I?"

*With, "You are the Messiah."

*Now, he rather illogically and no doubt emotionally...corrected the Messiah..."Uh, uh...that's not what is going to happen to the Messiah and since you are the Messiah, that's not going to happen to you."

*But there is more to this rebuke than "Jesus you are wrong."

*There is no doubt fear, self-protection.

*What are the implications for Jesus' closest companions if Jesus himself is going to suffer this fate?

*They will be considered complicit his crimes...Peter is no doubt afraid of the implications.

*Imagine Peter's position...he had been taught the Messiah would restore Israel's fortunes...he had seen the growing popularity...and he was in on the ground floor of this thing.

*He was an initial investor in a gold mine...called Jesus.

*But now Jesus is telling him..."I must suffer and die...killed by the leaders of our society."

*"No" Says Peter, "That just can't be true...I don't want that to be true...you **must not** suffer and die."

*I understand not wanting certain things to be true...we all do.

*But its not helpful, wise, or even rational...to try and correct God himself on the nature of reality.

*He is the ultimate "realist" he designed reality.

33 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."

*Notice, he first fixes his gaze on the disciples...that's what this phrase indicates...

*Peter pulled Jesus aside, but he is acting as their spokesperson on this...I can imagine them standing a few feet away, pretending to be discussing something else...but they have a vested interest in the conversation and in the course of action Jesus was talking about taking.

*Jesus turns his attention from Peter and looks his squad over...one by one...then he addresses Peter...but they know...they are all included in what Jesus is about to say.

*The Lord rebukes Peter...in very strong fashion...he uses the same word Peter used on him, the same word he used on demons.

*Peter was acting as the mouthpiece of Satan...Satan had already tried to tempt Jesus away from his purposes.

*Now Peter thought his own view, the popular view of the Messiah was correct...and the Messiah himself, was wrong.

*But Peter was wrong...Jesus, the King "must" go the cross.

*It is why he came.

*But he wasn't the only one going there...in fact all who follow him must go to the cross.

34 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.

*Denying yourself and taking up the cross is not:

1. Giving something up for lent or to trying become spiritual through self-discipline.
2. Its not bearing some life struggle or problem..."Yes, my boss is a pain, I guess he is ust my cross to bear..."

*No, he's not...he might be annoying but this is not what Jesus is talking about.

*By denial of self, Jesus does not mean to deny oneself something. He means to renounce self as the center of our lives—to cease to make self the object of one's life and actions.

*He talking about putting Jesus, not self at the center of our lives.

*And cross bearing is not putting up with some irritation, it describes the way of the cross.

*If you saw a person carrying a cross it meant they are already condemned, they are on their way to the place of execution.

*To carry the cross means to continually put to death my own will and ways when they run in opposition to the will and ways of Jesus.

*This is the only way to follow him.

*Obviously its not possible to follow Jesus and not follow Jesus.

*We cannot go our own way and at the same time go his...thus we must continually die to self in order to live to him.

*What does that even mean?

*Carry my cross, death to self...

*"Saying no to chocolate when I really want it?"

*The phrase "die to self" rolls off the tongue rather easily...but for me...it is terrifying to contemplate the implications.

*Mark was addressing a Roman audience, they invented crucifixion...no doubt many who read his gospel had seen one.

*So when Jesus says "If you want to follow me, you must take up your cross"
-It would have been terrifying.

*At the same time it would have been comforting for his readers...why?

*The Christians reading his gospel were suffering already...they were already paying a price for their faith.

*Jesus was normalizing what was for them an abnormal experience...

*"Jesus we are suffering here...is this the way its supposed to be, is this normal, are we doing something wrong?"

*"Yes" Jesus says, "This is normal, expected."

*So what about you...how does it make you feel?

*The whole "death to self" "carry the cross" stuff?

*Terrified? Comforted? Confused?

*Let's go on...Jesus will help us unpack it.

35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

*Jesus said that if we try to hold on to our lives, we will lose them.

*If we lay down our lives for him we will find our lives.

*"Yea Terry...but what does that mean for me in the here and now...not in the life to come."

*"Heaven talk is good when your old, or ready to die...I'm not ready to think about all that...What does Jesus have for me right here right now?"

*Well, obviously young and old people die everyday...as do both the ready and the unready.

*So its appropriate and important to consider death every day of our lives...or we will not be ready to either die or live.

*But what Jesus is saying here has implications for all our existence...in this life and in the life to come.

* CS Lewis ended his most widely read book, Mere Christianity with some thoughts on this topic at hand:

"The same principle holds, you know, for more everyday matters. Even in social life, you will never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what sort of impression you are making....The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

Lewis, C. S. (2009-05-28). Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis Signature Classics) (p. 227). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

*I am terrified when I contemplate..."Carry the cross"

*Until I consider the fact that...when I attempt to save my life, protect myself, put myself first...I experience ruin, emptiness.

*Then it becomes terrifying to "Not carry the cross the place where self is put to death."

*Because only at the cross will I experience life.

*But self is like a Zombie...it refuses to stay dead.

*It must be continually put to death, we must continually choose the way of Christ.

*The history of the world since the Garden of Eden is about people who are lost trying to "find themselves."

*If you are lost, it is not at all difficult to find yourself...you are right there...lost.

*The great difficulty is to find your way to where you need to be...safe, home, saved.

*Jesus said there is only one to find his life...lose your own.

*He says that if "You lay down your own will and ways for mine...you will experience my life."

*All other attempts to find life...will fail.

***I have said before that the truth does not depend on my ability to defend it...or live it.**

*It is independently verified...it is reality itself.

*The gospel is the truth...it describes reality as it is.

*What about other conflicting & competing truth claims? Other religious ideas, other thoughts concerning life purpose apart from Jesus.

*Well, They are not true...they are all wrong.

*Isn't that arrogant, inconsiderate, intolerant?

*Terry, your a military chaplain...can't you get in trouble for saying something like that? Fired or something.

*This doesn't imply that we should be unkind or judgmental or proud towards others who disagree or don't believe...it implies the exact opposite.

*It also doesn't mean I cannot love others and accept them...I can and I do.

*We are not talking about favorite colors or sports teams, or whose child is the smartest...we are talking about what is real.

*Either that glass of clear liquid is water or it is poison...and if it is poison it is not intolerant to label it such...it is in fact very wise, and good, and helpful.

*Something is real, something is true...and things that conflict with the truth are not real or true.

*The gospel is real, it is true...and conflicting claims of truth and reality...are false.

*Jesus is laying it down here...he is not saying..."Go find and live your passion and you will be fulfilled."

*He said..."Lose your life for me and the gospel" or you will waste your life completely.

*It's interesting that Jesus says here "Lose your life for me and the gospel."

*The gospel is the good news of Jesus...so isn't this redundant? "Me and the gospel."

*Not, its not.

*The gospel is what God has accomplished for our salvation in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*The gospel is the truth about Jesus.

*The "Me" here is Jesus speaking of himself, personally

*This is more than giving our lives for a narrative, a doctrine, some theological truth...as important as that is.

*It is about giving our lives for Jesus, the person, the one worthy of our lives.

*Jesus is making this very personal.

*And when people don't know him...we don't act coercively or in unkind ways.

*We treat them in the manner Jesus would treat them...with love and compassion.

38 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."

*Adultery means to break a vow, to give yourself to illegitimately to someone.

*Adulterous generation means people who were made by God for God...who give their lives away to false gods.

*They offer their devotion...their hearts, their time, their treasures, their talents...to false god's of human culture.

*Like the supreme god of American culture...sex and with her corresponding body worship.

*Last week the website: "Ashley Madison" was hacked...a commercial website designed to assist people in having affairs.

-The site's tag line is..."Life is short, have an affair"

*The site has millions of subscribers...and their names were threatened to be released by the hackers...first time I was happy about a crime like this.

*What a literal picture of a adulterous generation..."life is short, have an affair."

*You would think a rational person would know..."Life is short, definitely don't have an affair."

*What does it mean to be ashamed of him and his words in this adulterous generation?

*It means that when Jesus and his message say something that is counter to the narrative of the world we live in...we are embarrassed by Jesus and his message.

*We show our embarasement by bowing down the god's of culture along with everyone else.

*When the prophet Daniel was standing on his feet in the middle of a vast throng of people all on their knees before the false gods of their culture...he showed he was unashamed to call God his god.

*Willing to pay a price.

*To be ashamed means that we would be on our knees like the rest of the people...we would chose capitulation over courage.

*When all are bowing to the false gods of 21st century culture...we are bowing with them.

APPLICATION:

*I have a simple and straightforward application for us to consider today.

*Will we trust him?

*This is an enormous challenge.

*We are flesh and blood, we live each moment...one tick at a time...there are times when each tick is excruciating.

*I have lived like that before...some of you live like that now...most will at some point.

*Will you trust him?

*Even when the circumstances of your life say you should not?

*Let me read from a passage to guide our thinking on this application:

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

*Living being sure of things not seen...this is what earns the applause of God.

Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

*The foundation for our faith...God is before all things and the cause of all things...he is to be trusted above all things.

*The passage goes on to describe various ways people revealed their faith in their lives...some of it very difficult, all of it involved waiting, challenging circumstances.

*Then this...

Heb. 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

*Sit with that for a moment.

*Consider that Israel cried out to be free for 400 years in Egypt...how many died before the Exodus and the promised land?

16 Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

*Their lives stood for the honor of God...and God was proud of them...not ashamed to be called their God.

SMALL GROUP NOTES

July 26, 2015

Intro:

*Read the following:

"Even when the known facts were against God, they trusted and they waited, they waited and they worked, and in this way they called into question the ways of the world of their time and challenged even the impossible. The conclusion of the writer to the Hebrews is that such faith was the very reason God was not ashamed to be their God. Their lesson is a challenge to us: time after time the known facts of our lives and of the world may be against God, but one day all the missing facts will be known too, so our task as his people is to trust and prove him now, in the meantime, whatever the odds, whatever the opposition and however agonizing the suffering at the present moment."

Guinness, Os (2015-07-04). Fool's Talk: Recovering the Art of Christian Persuasion (Kindle Locations 837-838). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. 4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. 5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. 7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age — and Sarah herself was barren — was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. 13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. 17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. 20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. 23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up,

refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. 29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. 32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated — 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

*Discuss the circumstances of your life, the life of someone you know personally, or in the world at large that on face value could challenge your faith.

*What does it mean/take to trust God with the "unknown facts" in light of the difficult "known facts?"

Read:

Mark 8:31 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. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 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." 34 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. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 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."

Discuss:

1. Read the following passage from Daniel and discuss the implications for Jesus continually calling himself "The Son of Man."

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His

dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Dan. 7:13,14

2. Why did Peter rebuke Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter?
4. What is commonly thought to be the meaning of "Carrying the cross"?
5. What did Jesus have in mind when he used the phrase?
6. Why do you think people are so often offended by the absolute claims of Christ/Christians?
7. How could Christians do a better job of presenting absolute truth claims in a relativistic age? (For example—the message of the Cross is offensive but we don't have to be.

Apply:

*Spend some time alone or as a group thinking about and praying about this verse:

Mark 8:34 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. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? 37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

*If you believe this is truth, what are some implications for your life? Either things you are currently living out or things that you could or should be living out.

THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



Mark 8:31-38

**“FOR EVEN THE
SON OF MAN
DID NOT COME
TO BE SERVED,
BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE
HIS LIFE AS A
RANSOM FOR
MANY.”**

MARK 10:45

J. STILL

Mark 8:31 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.

Dan. 7:13-14 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Must

**Mark 8:32 He spoke plainly about this,
and Peter took him aside and began to
rebuke him.**

Mark 8:33 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.”

Mark 8:34 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.

Mark 8:35-37 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

"The same principle holds, you know, for more everyday matters. Even in social life, you will never make a good impression on other people until you stop thinking about what sort of impression you are making....The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

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Mark 8:38 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."

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