

## Unashamed and Uncompromised

[Mar 8:34-38 ESV] 34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

[Mar 9:1 ESV] 1 And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

### I. Intro

- A. Last week we looked at turning our hearts and minds to the things of God
- B. Today we look at how that works in the physical reality of our lives.
- C. The Physical and the Spiritual continue to collide in our faith walk.
- D. We gain confidence in our walk as we learn to release control to Christ.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 34:
  - 1. If anyone would come after Jesus
  - 2. Let him deny himself
  - 3. Take up his cross
  - 4. Follow Jesus
- B. Verses 35-36:
  - 1. For whoever saves his life will lose it
  - 2. Whoever loses his life for the sake of Christ will save it
  - 3. What does it profit to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?
- C. Verse 38: Do not be ashamed of the gospel, the complete gospel
- D. Verse 9:1: The righteous will never taste death, they will pass from this physical world into eternity and life will continue.

### III. Points

- A. The Cost
  - 1. What does it cost you to be a follower of Jesus?
    - a) In America: It may cost you reputation, friendships, cultural acceptance
    - b) In other parts of the world: It could cost your life, health, freedom, security
  - 2. What is a follower of Jesus? (In a blog post about this in 1 John)
    - a) Personal Acceptance (1 John 1:1-4)
    - b) Practical Fellowship (1 John 1:5-7)
    - c) Personal Purity (1 John 1:8-10)
    - d) Persistent Obedience (1 John 2:1-6)
    - e) Precious Brotherhood (1 John 2:7-11)
    - f) Prohibited Affection (1 John 2:12-17)
    - g) Powerful Association (1 John 2:18-23)
    - h) Precious Abiding (1 John 2:24-29)
    - i) Purifying Holiness (1 John 3:1-10)
    - j) Principled Love (1 John 4:7-21)
    - k) Particular Discernment (1 John 3:24-4:6)
    - l) Perfecting Love (1 John 4:7-21)
    - m) Powerful Overcomer (1 John 5:1-5)
    - n) Persuaded Confidence (1 John 5:13-21)
  - 3. Christian persecution:
    - a) Open doors World Watch List 2026: lists North Korea, Somalia, and Yemen as the top three countries persecuting Christians.

- b) But what about countries where Christians are spit on, churches are burned, and people are fired from jobs
  - c) Pressure and violence are a global reality for Christians, and we must continue standing for truth, because it is who we are.
- 4. The cost in reality: You are not your own, you are on mission for Christ.
  - a) That includes you comfort, peace, security, finances, and life.
  - b) There is no safer place to be than in the center of God's will.
- B. The Message
  - 1. Jesus is showing them: Trust fully in HIM, do not trust in yourself
  - 2. Jesus is telling them: You desire to save your life...lose control to me.
  - 3. Jesus is telling them: Find real life and peace in service to God!
  - 4. Forfeit your soul?
    - a) It doesn't make sense when you apply logic
    - b) Yet we still battle this every single day
  - 5. The Message is:
    - a) Jesus died for your sins
    - b) He was raised for new life
    - c) We trust in that truth today for salvation, and it has been the only plan and is the only plan that will be.
  - 6. Then Jesus shows us a deeper understanding:
    - a) If you are ashamed of Him and His words in this adulterous generation...
    - b) He will be ashamed of you
    - c) We have to look at what He is saying to us:
      - (1) We live in an adulterous and sinful world, this is in direct contrast to the holiness we are called and equipped with.
      - (2) Our life should look like a direct contrast to the world
      - (3) Our actions, reactions, and interactions should be in direct contrast
    - d) The trouble today is that the church has gotten so compromised by the world, it is hard to tell the difference.
    - e) Charles Spurgeon: "One reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."
- C. The Promise
  - 1. They will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God
  - 2. Scholars believe this to be referencing Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension
  - 3. It could also be referencing when the Holy Spirit fills the church and is sent out in power.
  - 4. But what we know, If you are in Christ and He in you, we will not taste real death.
  - 5. We will all die physically, but we do not have to die spiritually!
  - 6. To be born once is to die twice, to be born twice is to die once.
  - 7. [Rom 5:1-2 ESV] 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
  - 8. [Jhn 3:1-8 ESV] 1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it

- wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
9. The promise we have as followers of Christ make it make sense to give everything over to him
  10. It does not make sense in the fleshly, carnal mind to surrender control, yet we must do this!

IV. Close

- A. We should be reminded of this truth as we take the Lord's supper.
- B. His power, sacrifice and truth is evident as we take the supper together.
- C. [Mat 26:26-30 ESV] 26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.