



“The Way of the Lord”

Mark 8:31-38 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction –Mark chapter eight is the midpoint, and a major turning point in the gospel, where Jesus begins to outline the details of His journey.

I. The Way of the Lord.

- A. Mark introduces us to Jesus’ journey in chapter one, which he refers to as “the way of the Lord.”
- B. He picks up on the way of the Lord in chapter eight, signaled by Jesus “being on the way.”
- C. Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem and ultimately to the cross.
- D. The “way of the Lord” involves suffering and death but will ultimately lead to life.
- E. Jesus’ journey did not fit with the disciple’s expectations of Messiah.
- F. But for those who want to follow Jesus, the “way of the Lord” is also the way for His disciples.

II. The Way of the Lord’s Disciples.

- A. We must receive a new identity from Jesus.
- B. To follow the way of the Lord involves three things.
 - 1. Denying ourselves.
 - 2. Taking up our cross.
 - 3. A commitment to follow Jesus.

C. These all revolve around what it means to “take up our cross.”

- 1. For Jesus’ disciples it is different from Jesus’ physical cross.
 - 2. “Taking up our cross” is qualified by what comes before it: “denying ourselves.”
 - 3. To understand what that means it helps to see how it’s linked to the word “soul,” which follows in what Jesus says next.
 - 4. Our “soul” is our sense of self, Our identity. It is essentially who we are.
 - 5. This means we must die to our old identity, our old sense of self, and live according to our new identity in Christ.
- D. Jesus gives us three reasons to exchange our old identity for His.
- 1. Because of the life we will receive in our soul from Him.
 - 2. Because worldly gains are only temporary.
 - 3. Because of the hope of Jesus’ return

Conclusion