

THE SUFFERING SON AND HIS SUFFERING FOLLOWERS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—August 27th, 2023

Mark 8:31-38

(ESV)

[31] And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32] And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33] But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

[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.”

INTRODUCTION

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” —Jim Elliot, Christian Martyr

The life of a follower of Christ is a life filled with suffering, but it’s worth it.

Genesis 3:15—[15] *I will put enmity between you [the Serpent’ and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*”

Isaiah 53:7—[7] *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.*

Mark 2:19-20—[19] *And Jesus said to them, “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. [20] The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.*

JESUS’ MISSION

What does Jesus tell his disciples about his mission?

1) His mission is necessary.

● **Isaiah 53:10**—[10] *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief...*

- **Acts 2:22** [23] *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*
- 2) His mission involves suffering.
- **Romans 5:3**—*Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings...*
 - **2 Corinthians 12:10**—*For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.*
 - **1 Peter 4:13**—*But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings...*
 - **James 1:2**—*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds...*
- 3) His mission would be triumphant.
- **Hebrews 12:2**—*“...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...”*
 - **Romans 4:25**—[25] *[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

OUR COMMISSION

Christ's triumph was accomplished through suffering, and we are called to be imitators of Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 11:1**—*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*
- **Philippians 1:21**—[21] *For to me to live is Christ...*
- **Galatians 2:20**—*I have been crucified with Christ.*
- **Galatians 6:17**—*...for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.*
- **Colossians 1:24**—[24] *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church...*
- **Acts 14:22**—*...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*

For Christ a call to salvation is first a call to self-denial and suffering.

Hebrews 11:24–26—[24] *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, [25] choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. [26] He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.*

Christians are called not to the way of comfort, but to the way of the cross.

Why does Jesus call us to live a cross-centered life?

- 1) When we try to save our lives from the sufferings of the cross Christ calls us to, we lose our lives.
- 2) The eternal heavenly rewards are much greater than the temporal earthly rewards.
- 3) If we deny Christ to avoid the cross he calls us to bear, he will deny us before the Father.