

Why Must We Carry A Cross
Mark 8:34-38
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of carrying the cross of Christ.

Intro: 1. Why does Christ using the idea of carrying a cross?
2. Today we will consider what is meant and what is involved with Christ's teaching on bearing our cross for Him.

I. Why Must We Carry A Cross? (**Mk 8:34**)

A. It's a requirement of followers

1. If one is going to follow Christ, they must live like it.
2. Failure to live a righteous & godly life is failure in bearing the cross.

B. It's part of denying self.

1. To deny our self we must deny pleasure that are sinful.
2. If we are unwilling to deny ourselves of things that separate us from God then we will never see heaven.

C. It is part of losing our life for Christ.

1. Man must lose his desire to live ungodly (**Phil 3:13**).
2. Failure to lose such desires will only cause God to be far from us (**James 4:8**).

II. What Man Gives

A. Man gives up worldliness for the Cross (**v.36**)

1. Man must give up putting himself first (**Mt 6:33a**)
 - a. We must seek God FIRST
2. Man must realize he must lose before he can gain.

B. Man exchanging sinfulness for Godliness (**v.37**)

1. Stores have exchange policies.
 - a. We must learn what we gain by using the Lord's exchange policy (**v.37, Rom 1:25a**)
2. When is the last time you exchanged sin for forgiveness and mercy?

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Losing Life to Gain it (**v.35**)

1. Man will only gain spiritual when he learns how to prevent himself from dying spiritually (**Rev 20:6, Rev 21:8**)

B. Only cross bearers have will have eternal life. (**v.38**)

1. Bearing the cross of Christ, living the Christian life is the only way to gain heaven.
2. This teaching of Christ go against the idea of "once saved always saved".
3. Christ is teaching a lifelong faithfulness to Him.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Man must deny himself, take up the cross of Christ, and follow Him. (**v.34**)
2. Failure to do these things results in failing to reach heaven.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9