

"The Demands of Discipleship"  
Mark 8:27-38 (NIV)  
Pastor Robert Brandhagen

The Purpose (Why did God write this?): To reveal Jesus' role as Messiah, His passion, and the lifestyle demanded of those who believe in Him.

*I. Jesus' Identity: (Whatever Others Say,) We Must Conclude that He is the Christ*

<sup>27</sup> **Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"**

<sup>28</sup> **They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."**

<sup>29</sup> **"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."**

<sup>30</sup> **Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.**

*II. Jesus' Suffering: (Whatever Others Think,) We Must Have in Mind Heavenly, Not Earthly Concerns*

<sup>31</sup> **He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.**

<sup>32</sup> **He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.**

<sup>33</sup> **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 concerns of God, but merely human concerns."**

*III. Our Suffering: (Whatever Others Do,) We Must Fulfill the Demands of Discipleship*

<sup>34</sup> **Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**

<sup>35</sup> **For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.**

<sup>36</sup> **What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?**

<sup>37</sup> **Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?**

<sup>38</sup> **If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."**

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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Jesus' identity, passion, and gospel lead to a new, hard road for all disciples: we must be unashamed, self-denying, cross-carrying followers of Jesus.