

## **The Issues of God and The Issues of Man**

### **Mark 8:34 (KJV)**

**34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me**

**\* Jesus spoke to all, to the people and to His disciples**

**There is the issue of discipleship, that is, indulging self vs. denying self. Jesus was very pointed: there is a life of self-indulgence and there is a life of self-denial**

**(Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 1 John 2:15-16).**

### **A person has to make a choice between...**

- \* loving comfort and ease - or - commitment and discipline**
- \* loving wealth and property – or - work and compassion**
- \* loving recognition and fame - or - humility and sacrifice**
- \* loving position and power – or - service and ministry**
- \* loving pleasure and feeling – or - righteousness and self-control**

**The question is:**

**"How does a person go about making the right choice?"**

### **Jesus said four things.**

**1. A man must will to come after Him**

**Mans Will—Mark 8:34**

**2. A man must deny himself**

**Deny—Mark 8:34**

**3. A man must take up his cross**

**Cross—Luke 9:23**

**4. A man must follow Christ**

**Follow—Mark 8:34**

Mark 8:34-35 (KJV)

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

\* The person who loses his life for Christ, who sacrifices and gives all he is and has for Christ, saves his life; and he saves it eternally.

\* The person who keeps his life and what he has for himself shall lose his life, and he loses it eternally.

*The call of Christ is just what He says: a life of denial that takes up the cross and follows in His steps*

\* So we find in v: 34 *“The Issue of Discipleship: Indulging Self vs. Denying Self”*

\* We find in v: 35 *“The Issue of Life: Saving Life vs. Losing Life”*

Mark 8:35-37 (KJV)

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

\* Now we see in vs: 36-37 *“The Issue of Value” – Gaining the World vs saving the soul*

There is the issue of value, that is, gaining the world vs. saving the soul.

\* The Greek word translated soul is the same Greek word translated life.

**Jesus used the word life in two senses**

There are two stages, two beings, two existences to the same life: the life that exists on this earth and the life that shall exist beyond this earth.

**Once a person (life) is born into this world, he will exist forever**

\* It is just a matter of where he goes after life in this world: to be with God or to be apart from God.

**No man can gain the whole world**

\* But what if he could?

\* All the pleasure and wealth and power and fame are nothing compared with his soul.

**There are four primary reasons why the soul is far superior to the things of this earth.**

**1. Everything fades and passes away**

\* A person possesses something but for a short time...

\* A man may choose money and property instead of helping to meet the needs of the world.

\* But money and property can be held only for a short time.

*A man may choose position and power instead of giving his life where it would do the most good.*

\* But position and power are held only for a short time.

\* A woman may choose freedom and pleasure instead of home and family.

\* But freedom and pleasure last only for a short time.

*A person may choose the world and comfort instead of God and His church.*

\* But the world and comfort do not satisfy, and they last only for a short time.

**"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7)**

4

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away"  
(1 Peter 1:24)

"The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field"  
(Isaiah 40:6).

**2.** *Everything cannot be used all at once. Everything sits, is unused most of the time. Most of the time...*

- clothes sit
- a car sits
- power goes unused
- popularity and fame are not thought of

*We are talking about reasons why the soul is far superior to the things of this earth*

**3.** *The human soul is eternal; it never dies, never ceases to exist. It shall live forever, either with or apart from God*

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36)

"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal" (John 12:25)

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:8)

**4.** *The human soul is of more value than the whole world*

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

"Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49:12)

There are four primary reasons why the soul is far superior to the things of this earth.

1. Everything fades and passes away
2. *Everything cannot be used all at once. Everything sits, is unused most of the time. Most of the time...*
3. *The human soul is eternal; it never dies, never ceases to exist. It shall live forever, either with or apart from God*
4. *The human soul is of more value than the whole world*

Mark 8:38 (KJV)

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

\* *"The Issue of the Messiah: Being Ashamed of Jesus Christ vs. Confessing Jesus Christ.*

1. Christ is the true Messiah. He and His words determine a man's destiny. Note the words, "Me and my words."

2. A man can be ashamed of Christ, and some men are ashamed of Him. Some fear what others will say. They fear being ridiculed by peers: talked about, questioned, avoided, sneered at, abused, persecuted. Therefore, they deny Christ. They deny by word, act, and silence.

3. The world makes it difficult to confess Christ. Why? The world is an adulterous and sinful place. And every generation passes down its adulterous and sinful behavior. Few ever want to confess (follow) the true and living God. God's insistence on the denial of self and the giving of all one is and has is too high a price for most persons.

6.

Most persons want to keep some control over their lives and some wealth for themselves. Most are unwilling to give all they are and have to God (that is, to the gospel) and to the demanding love that the needs of this desperate world require.

4. *The day of the Messiah's glory is coming, a day when His glory shall be revealed to all.* It will be a day of glory and splendor, of triumph and victory, a day when all shall see Him as He really is: the true Messiah, the Son of the living God.

5. *The day of judgment—of shame and of being ashamed—is coming.* All who are ashamed of the Messiah in this world will be ashamed of their behavior where it really counts—before God Himself. The person will see Christ standing with God, and Christ will be ashamed of the person and of the selfish life the person has lived. And then the ashamed person will hear those fateful and terrifying words, "*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (*Matthew 7:23; cp. Matthew 25:41-46*).

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (*Matthew 7:23*).

"But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God" (*Luke 12:9*).

"But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity" (*Luke 13:27*).

#### Mark 9:1 (KJV)

1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

#### *"The Issue of Death: Tasting Death vs: Seeing God's Kingdom"*

There is the issue of death, that is, tasting death vs. seeing God's kingdom.

This is not a reference to the Lord's second coming.

## **The disciples did die before Jesus' return**

\* More than likely it refers to the Lord's victory over death and hell which took place upon the cross and in the resurrection.

\* It refers to the rule and reign of God's kingdom that takes place within the heart of the believer, to the rule and reign of the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit comes to take residence within the believer

## **A man either tastes death or sees God's kingdom with power**

### **1. Most men walk in death.**

"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:53)

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephes. 5:14).

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth"  
(1 Tim. 5:6).

"I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev. 3:1).

### **2) Some experience the saving power of God's kingdom**

"It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found"  
(Luke 15:32)

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins"  
(Ephes. 2:1)

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Col. 2:13)

"Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death" (John 8:52)

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

### **Issues**

**\* We all have them and they can keep us from the presence of the Lord**

**\* Issues concerning Discipleship**

**\* Issues concerning Life**

**\* Issues concerning Value**

**\* Issues concerning Jesus**

**\* Issues concerning Eternity**

**Jesus Spoke to the Disciples in Mark 34 "...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"**

**Lets take sometime tonight at the altars and Pray about these Issues**