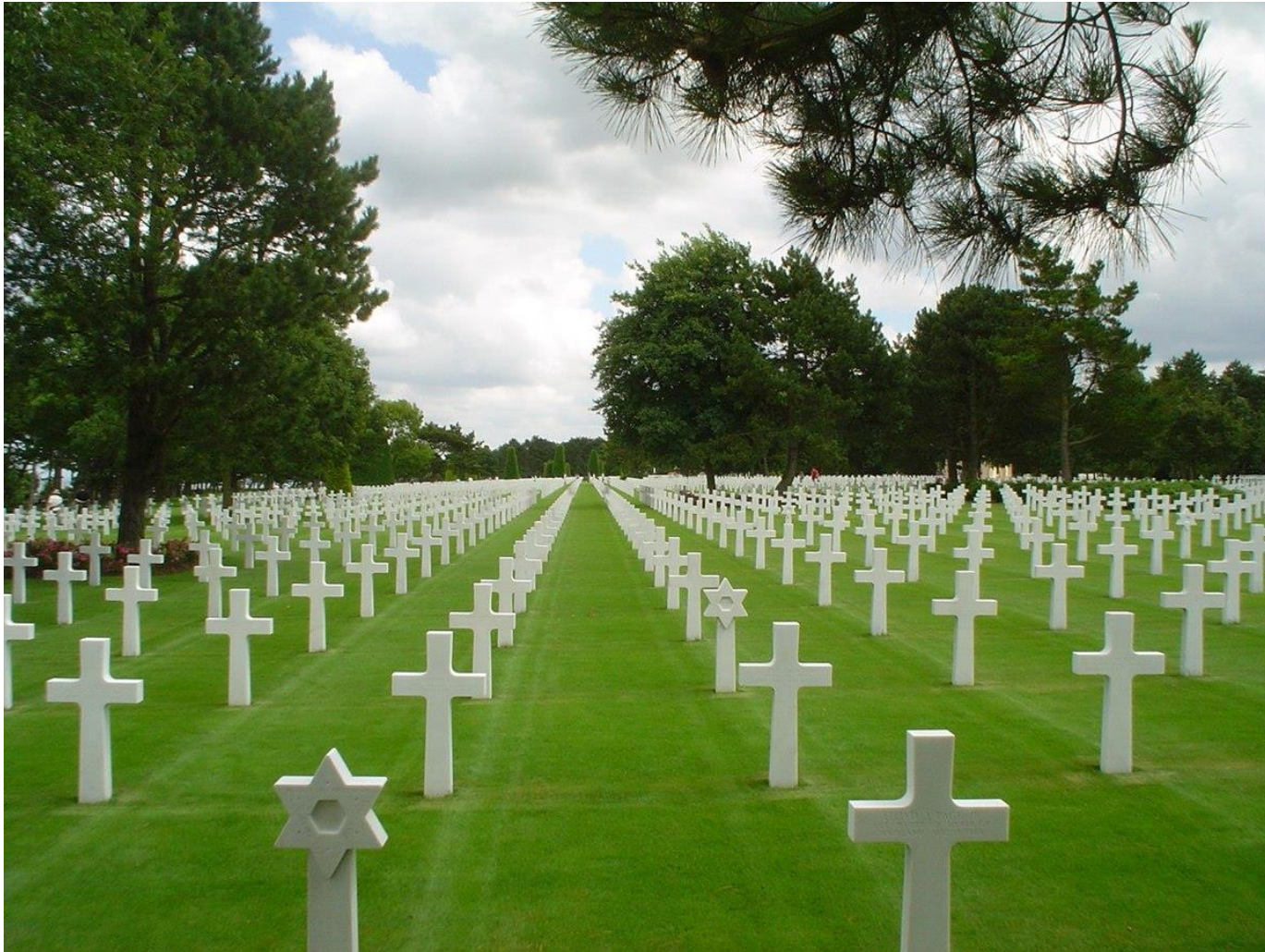


Remembrance Day 2021



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmTvp0HCoK8> – Freedom is not Free

Mark Chapter 8

- Feeding the 4,000
- Spiritual Blindness (“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees”)
- Blind Man Healed
- Peter’s Great Confession
- 1st Prediction of the Cross
- Take up your Cross

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Jesus Christ Takes Up His Cross



“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” Mark 8:34

Take Up Your Cross



And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:27)

(Mark 8: 1-10)

Feeding the 4,000 - The Redeemer of the World

- Jesus is in the Region of Decapolis (Gentile) where the demon possessed man was healed in Chapter 5 & the Deaf mute in Chapter 7.
- Matthew and Mark both describe the two feedings while Luke and John only describe the feeding of 5,000.
- Jesus specifically refers to the two feedings detailing some of the major differences between them (Matthew 16:9-10; Mark 8:18-20), eliminating any argument that there was only 1 feeding.
- Why did the disciples in Mark 8:4 ask “How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness” if they witnessed the first feeding?
- Jesus shows us in Mark 8:11-30 that it was not the lack of evidence but the disciple’s **inability to understand it (v.21), and they would not be able to understand unless He also performed the next miracle of giving sight to the blind (Spiritual Blindness).**

Question: Do we ever react the way disciples did, not understanding & expecting little, even after He has met our needs so often in the past?

Possible Significance of Numerology

- There were 12 baskets left over in the feeding of the 5,000 and 7 baskets left over in the feeding of the 4,000
- **7=perfection/completeness/7 days of creation;** (Mark 8 leftovers)
- **12 = 12 disciples (one for each of them to eat), 12 tribes of Israel.** (Mark 6 leftovers)

(Mark 8: 1-10)

Feeding the 4,000 - The Redeemer of the World

- The Exodus was a revelation of God as Redeemer and Moses knew it would not fulfil the promises to Abraham of God's people in His place under His rule (Deut. 31:16).
- When Israel was exiled from the land because of sin, the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) prophesied a return from exile, similar to the Exodus, and that there would be a Messianic return.
- As in the first feeding, this miracle symbolic of **recreating the manna in the wilderness** (Ex. 16) as well as Elisha's multiplication of loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44)
 - Reinforced in chapter 6 by "like sheep without a shepherd" Messianic reference (Num. 27:17-18; Deut. 18:15, 34:9-12; Is. 40:9-11; Ezek. 34:1-10; 34:23)
- Feeding miracles identify Jesus as the Redeemer of the true Exodus and return from exile, the Christ promised in the Old Testament. The first feeding was to Jewish people, now He implies that He has also come to save the Gentiles through the miracles in Chapter 7 & 8.
- This suggests the **feeding of the 4,000 Gentiles reveals Jesus as Redeemer of the World. (6:52; 8:19-21)**
- 8:6 as in 6:41, breaking bread and giving thanks is the same language used in the Last Supper

Similarities of the Feeding of 5,000 & 4,000

• Large Crowd	• People Sit Down
• Dessert Place/Wilderness Area	• Thanks Given & Bread Broken
• Jesus' Compassion	• Food Distributed by the 12
• Loaves Counted	• All Eat & are "Satisfied"
• A Few Loaves & Fish	• Left Over Pieces Collected
• No Way to Get More	• Departure by Boat

Differences of the Feeding of 5,000 & 4,000

Feeding of 5,000	Feeding of 4,000
• In Jewish Territory	• In Gentile Territory
• After 1 Day	• After 3 Days (foreshadow of the Cross?)
• 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	• 7 Loaves & a Few Fish
• Compassion Leads to Teaching	• Compassion Leads to Feeding
• Disciples Identify Need	• Jesus Identifies Need
• Jesus Gets them to Admit Inadequacy	• They Volunteer their Inadequacy
• Green Grass & Groups Mentioned	• Green Grass & Groups Not Mentioned
• Small, Jewish Baskets	• Large, Gentile Baskets
• 12 Baskets of Leftovers	• 7 Baskets of Leftovers

Mark 8:11

Pharisees Seek a Sign

- Another example of lack of **SEEING**, despite all the miracles & teachings they saw & heard with their human eyes.
- **They didn't understand because they didn't see & hear the spiritual truths because of their hardness of heart or their refusal to believe.** The reason people don't want to believe is due to their love of sin and refusal to repent (**Mat. 21:32; Eph 4:18; John 3:19**).
- **They wanted a prediction that would come true (Not a Miracle) as the test of a prophet (Deut. 13:2-5; 18:18-22).** They were testing Jesus' authority.
- While it is not necessarily wrong to expect a sign, the Lord will not be tested (Is. 7:10-17). "Test"—used 4 times in Mark, (once of Satan & 3 times of the Pharisees 1:13, 8:11; 10:2; 12:15)
- The problem was they wanted a sign to make them believe (maybe like Handwriting on the wall or sign in the sky), and they rejected the many signs already given to them. They had negative intent and were tempting Jesus to act for Himself.

Mark 8:11-12

Pharisees Seek a Sign

- In **Matthew 16:4**, Jesus adds “...no sign shall be given to you except the sign of Jonah” (3 days in belly of the Fish linked to 3 days in the grave until the resurrection).
- Jesus was grieved by their unbelief and departs in v13 like the ones in 3:7 and 7:24. A judgement on those who judge Him.
- The Pharisees & Herod were both leaders of Israel who Israel might expect to be “fed” by, and Jesus compared the food they offered to yeast. They rejected the evidence that Jesus was the Redeemer because they did not want to admit sin (Mark 2:17, 7:17-23).

Mark 8:13-21

Symbol of Leaven Explained

- The **disciples misunderstood** what Jesus said about “**Take Heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees**”. Knowing that one loaf would not be enough, they thought Jesus was talking literally about physical bread, but Jesus rebuked them strongly.
- Jesus is deeply upset (righteous indignation) at their interest only in material things and their failure to notice the more important spiritual issue.
- **The disciples had failed to understand** the Chapter 4 Parable about hearing correctly, and again **the feeding of 5,000, clearly revealing Him as redeemer**, but in **Mark 6:52** **“For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened”**.
- In v.19-20, Jesus recounts the events between the feeding of the 5,000 to now the feeding of the 4,000 (Mark 6:31 – 8:10), and that despite all these signs, they could not see He was the Messiah.
- In Mark 7:18, Jesus says to the disciples “Are you thus without **UNDERSTANDING** also? Do you not **PERCIEVE** (**SEE**) that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him.”
- They were like Israel of the wilderness & exile: deaf, blind, without understanding, hard heartened. Ironic that the disciples (like us), after all they were taught on faith, and witnessing the miracles of the feedings, were still worried about their physical need for food.

(Mark 8: 11-21)

Old Testament Background - Leaven

- The images of Yeast, Hardness of Heart, Testing, Forgetfulness, Blindness and Deafness suggest Israel is still spiritually in Egypt (exile).
- Israel was redeemed from physical slavery in Egypt to live in the Promised Land but remained unredeemed spiritually which led to exile, like going back to Egypt.
- At the Exodus, Israel left Egypt before they could add yeast to their bread. At the annual commemoration of the Exodus, the Israelites cleared all yeast from their house and ate unleavened bread. **Yeast is a sign of being unredeemed** (Ex. 12:17-20; 13:6-9, 34:18).
- In the New Testament, **YEAST** is a symbol of any small thing which gradually effects everything around it (Mat. 13:33), but particularly **SIN & FALSE TEACHING**.
- **Hardness of Heart** – was Pharaoh's sin and God's judgement on him (Ex. 9:34-10:1). Israel showed hard heartedness in the wilderness, where they tested God (**Ps. 95:8**) and in their failure to revere God as redeemer (**Is. 63:16-17**) led to exile (**Jer. 19:15**).
- Pharaoh refused to accept the significance of astonishing revelations of God's power.
- Israel at the Exodus was repeatedly told to **REMEMBER** what they had seen (Ex. 12:14, 24-27; 13:24-25) and their failure in the wilderness was a failure to remember God's acts in the Exodus.
- Prophets described Israel's failure in the wilderness as **FORGETFULNESS** of God (Jer. 3:19-21; 13: 24-25) but also as **BLINDNESS & DEAFNESS** (Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2; Is. 6:9-10; 29:9-12, 18-19).

(Mark 8: 22-30)

Blind Man Healed at Bethsaida

- Healing of the blind man is a fulfilment of **Is. 35:5**, a sign of the messianic age, which is the very thing that the Pharisees were asking for in Mark 8: 11, but they could not “see”.
- There are many similarities to the healing of the deaf mute in 7:31-37
 - Jesus leads the men away from the crowd in both healings,
 - The men were brought by others who beg Jesus to touch him,
 - **Spit and touch** were both used and the description is detailed,
 - Miracle results in “**Plain**” speech and “**Clear**” sight.
- The healing of the blind man was preceded by the demonstration that even the Jewish disciples were “blind” and “deaf” and did not understand (v. 18) without a miracle.
- Somewhere between 8:21-8:29, the disciple’s view was completely changed. **Just as the blind man saw physically, they now saw spiritually.** The great question of the first half of Mark, “Who is Jesus?” is now correctly answered, and the blind man’s story is there to show us that it is by a miracle.

John 9:35-41

Spiritual Blindness

- Throughout the whole Bible, blindness is used metaphorically to represent the human condition of fallenness, spiritual ignorance and the inability to comprehend God and divine truth. Isaiah 43:8, 56:10; Jer. 5:21
- **God came to give sight to the Blind:** [John 9:39](#); Acts 26:18; Eph 4:18

3 Kinds of Blindness

1. **Natural Blindness** – Adamic nature of the unsaved man – 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor 4: 3-4; Psalm 82:5; John 3:19; 8:12
2. **Satan's Double Dose of Blindness** – to those trying to see the light - 2 Cor. 4:4
3. **God's Blindness as a Judgement** to those who persistently reject the Light – [John 12: 39-40](#); Isaiah 44:18; Mark 4:12, 25 (Is. 6:9-10)

(Mark 8: 29)

“You are the Christ”

- Mark 8:29 – “**But who do men say that I am?**” ...Peter answered and said to Him, “**You are the Christ**”.
- It would appear that Peter and the disciples finally could see and understand and were now fully enlightened, yet, in just a few verses, we find Jesus calling Peter, Satan!
- Interestingly, **in Matthew 16:17-20 (Read)**, Jesus praises Peter yet in Mark, inspired by Peter, the praise of Peter is omitted, yet Jesus’ harsh rebuke is highlighted, indicating another case where Peter’s humility is shown (like the omission of Peter walking on the water in Mark Chapter 6).
- Jesus wanted this and the miracles of chapters 7 & 8 kept quiet because of the popular expectation that the Messiah would liberate Israel politically. **Jesus still had to teach them that he must suffer and die before people could understand Why He Came**
- **The gospel was not finished yet.** (they were still partially **Blind-to the Cross**)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUicRdgaVt0> - Caesarea Philippi

Matthew Parallel Passage

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of **Caesarea Philippi**, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ **Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** ¹⁸ **And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

(Mark 8: 31 – 9:1)

Jesus Predicts His Death & Resurrection

- **Mark 8:31** “And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”
- This is the predictive sign of a prophet that the Pharisees had asked for.
- **Significantly, Jesus healed the blind man in two stages**, and emphasized the man’s imperfect sight after the first stage.
- Peter was **completely blind in 8:14-21**, he **sees partially in v.29**, but he certainly does not see clearly in v.32 (rebukes Jesus and is called Satan). Mark draws a parallel between Peter’s answer in v. 29 “You are the Christ”, and the partially healed man’s “I see people, but they look like trees.”
- Jesus had called men to “follow” at the start of His ministry (1:17-20; 2:14-15). Now Jesus teaches what “Following” really involves.”

OT Significance:

- Imagery in Chapters 6-8 follows the Exodus – Jesus describes how He must die
- In the Exodus from Egypt, Israel was rescued from the last of ten judgements on Egypt, where every firstborn male would die. The only way that Hebrews could escape this judgement was by killing a perfect lamb. The Lord “passed over” the Hebrew houses which were marked by the blood of the lamb. Israel was told to celebrate this event in the Passover feast every year (Ex. 11, 12).
- This Passover procedure was explained at Sinai by the annual ceremonies of the Day of Atonement, where Israel’s sins were “laid on” a goat by a priest which “carried” them away, while an identical animal was sacrificed as a substitute. All they could do was sorrow over their sin. The ceremony didn’t actually deal with sin, but showed how sin would one day be dealt with (Lev 16; Heb. 10:1-10).
- Daniel prophesied a Son of Man who would rule over the world (Dan. 7:9-14).
- Isaiah prophesied of the true exodus and a divine King (Is. 9:6-7; 11:1-5) that would be a Servant God who would lead Israel out of exile and would be a Suffering Servant, one of whom men would be ashamed, who would be led “like a lamb to slaughter, as a guilt offering, dying with our sins “laid on Him”. (Is. 49:5-7; 52:13 – 53:12).

Mark 8:31

CHRIST IS THE “SON OF MAN” OF DANIEL, BUT HE MUST DIE!

- **“Son of Man”** reference is used by Jesus (in 8:31; 2:10; 2:28) and in 8:38 says **“...the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”**, now **making the Daniel 7:10, 13 second coming reference unmistakable**.
- This now makes the 8:31 statement that He must suffer all the more shocking, and difficult for Peter to understand, since Daniel predicts that:
 - He will end suffering (not suffer Himself); Dan. 7:27
 - He will reign with God’s people (not be rejected by God’s people); Dan. 7:18, 27
 - He will reign forever (not die); Dan. 7:14, 28
- The rejection and death of the “Servant” as described in Mark 8:31 was predicted in Isaiah 52:13; 53:12, Psalm 22, Genesis 3:15 and even in Daniel 7:25 the Most High is “spoken against”.
- The **“chief priests”** are mentioned by Jesus in Mark 8:31. While the “elders & teachers” have been mentioned several times, priests have only been mentioned once before, and in connection with sacrifices required by the Old Testament (Mark 1:44). Atoning sacrifice was a primary task of the chief priests (Lev. 9:7, 22-24, 16:29-34) and they took the lead in killing Jesus

Mark 8:32-33

Peter's Rebuke

- Peter could accept a triumphant Christ but not a suffering one. Peter found it unacceptable that Jesus must suffer and said so.
- Peter's reaction – Mark 8:32 **“Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.”** - this reveals an incredible lack of understanding that Peter, after just declaring Jesus as Christ, would attempt to “rebuke” Jesus, the same word used when Jesus “rebuked” demons.
- Jesus gives Peter a devastating rebuke and attributes his attitude to SATAN!!
- Peter's reaction shows man's and Satan's basic reaction to the Cross. We would expect Satan to welcome Jesus' death, but **Satan tries to tempt Jesus to avoid it** (Mark 1:12-13).
- **Satan knows that the Cross will defeat sin and Satan.** Man doesn't like the idea that the Messiah would have to die, but as Jesus says to Peter in **Mark 8:33**; **“...you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”** This is similar to **Is. 55:8** “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways...So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

(v.34)

“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

1. **Deny Self** *(be humble, poor in spirit & contrite in heart)– selfishness, pride, jealousy, etc. is sin, therefore we need to overcome sin (9:35 **“first shall be last”**). Defilement comes from within.
2. **Take up Cross**
 - Face opposition, shame, suffering, death, separation from world (2 Cor. 6:17)
3. **Follow Me** - obey, change lifestyle, pray, worship, read the Word, surrender, proclaim the gospel. Jesus wants 100% of us & our attention.

1. (v.35) **“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”**

- **Save Earthly Life -----Lose Eternal Life ***
(saving earthly life means avoiding self denial and not taking up your cross to have the approval of man and comforts of this life)
- **Lose Earthly Life ---- Save Your Soul ***
- John 12:25 **“He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”**
- To win we must **surrender**. To live we must die. To receive we must give.

<p>1. (v.36-37) “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will he exchange for his soul?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rhetorical question – the answer is obvious to make a point.○ The pleasures of the world (“saving earthly life” or selfish ambitions) will cost you your soul.○ You cannot buy your soul for any earthly price.
<p>2. (v38) “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To be ashamed of Jesus means we don’t want to be identified with Him for fear of looking foolish○ It means we are concerned with SELF, and the approval of the world (adulterous & sinful)○ Matt. 10: 32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” (Great Commission)

Jesus Took up His Cross, He asks His Followers to the Same

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, **if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.**

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, **but also to suffer for Him.**

1 Peter 2:21

To this you were called, **because Christ suffered for you**, leaving you an example, that **you should follow in His steps.**

What then does it mean to “share in His sufferings”? For the most part, it **refers to suffering persecution and opposition and hardship for the gospel**, and references to this are found in almost every book of the New Testament.

Questions to Ponder Seriously

1. Would you be prepared to be imprisoned or executed if you are forced to deny your beliefs in Christ?

1. Jesus Christ is the one true God and Saviour, and He is returning to reign in Power;
2. God is the creator of all things;
3. The Bible is the Word of God and God's Truth.
4. Salvation through faith in Christ is the only way to heaven;
5. Everyone has a need to be saved from sin and its punishment (hell);

2. Would you be prepared to be imprisoned or executed if you are forced to take a mark (or vaccine with a tattoo) that is associated with the number "666" and is required in order to buy and sell.

- If these questions bother or scare you, ask the Holy Spirit for power to strengthen your faith and give you courage to "not be ashamed" of Jesus and His Word. (Think of the faith and courage of Daniel when he disobeyed the law to pray, even though the penalty was the lions den, or of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)

(Watch Song History: "I have Decided to Follow Jesus")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lax9J4zKKjo>

(Mark 8:34 – 38)

What Does it Mean to “Follow Jesus”

- **“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow Me.”** Mark 8: 34 (tough new teaching to a crowd)
- **DENY SELF:**
 - **Our problem is in idolizing self.**
 - Herod’s problem was idolizing self (self-desire for a woman and his reputation among men).
 - Pharisee’s problem was self (adherence to their own traditions). (Mark 7:1-13)
 - Evil comes from the heart (self). (Mark 7:14-23)
 - Peter considered himself wiser than Christ (Mark 8:32)
 - Disciples thought they would be “great”, but learned **“If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last.”** (Mark 9:35)
 - We need to read Chapter 9 & 10 to learn what it means to deny self, but the next part of the sentence shows that it is far more than just denying worldly pleasures and desires.
- **TAKE UP YOUR Cross:**
 - We must ready and willing to DIE
 - The short-term cost of following a Christ is to face a hostile “generation”, in which most will save their lives now by being ashamed to publically separate themselves of the world and proclaim the gospel of Jesus and the Cross.
 - **The combination of accepting both Jesus and His Word/Gospel is very important.** Peter just found out that accepting Jesus, but not accepting His Word, particularly about the Cross is not good enough to “Follow” Jesus.
 - The message of the Cross is difficult – it means following humbly through rejection, even to martyrdom is necessary. The phrase “be ashamed” suggests that we must accept it publicly and not just in private.
 - Allegiance to the Cross is the only way to life (8:35)
 - Israel was told to deny themselves (or fast) in Lev. 16:29 on the Day of Atonement, observing a Sabbath (doing nothing except admit their need for help & mercy, while atonement was made for them by someone else).
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wUsuaTD0IM> – Billy Graham; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cx-BD8ueTDE> – Matt. 10