

God's Servant Clarifies Mark 8:1-21

Main Idea: Jesus labors to make us disciples who love God with all our soul. He works to rescue our soul from ruin. He labors to strengthen soul so that we win the battle against sin and Satan.

Jesus helps us to walk the path of discipleship through . . .

1. His progressive work. (8:22-26)

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Truth: Conversion is an explosion of light in our soul. Conversion brings a radical change from darkness to light, from blindness to seeing the God of glory.

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." (1 Corinthians 13:12 [ESV](#))

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 [ESV](#))

Truth: Our soul feeds upon a progressively growing vision of God

2. His powerful reign. (8:27-30)

Truth: Many who hear Jesus' words are favorable to Him. But being favorable to Jesus is very different from believing in Him.

Truth: Jesus still calls us to answer the question. "Who do you say I am?" We cannot grow as disciples without a clear verbal confession that Jesus is the Messiah/King.

"And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.'" (Matthew 16:17 [ESV](#))

Truth: Our soul needs to confess Jesus as our King. Without such confession, our soul will be lost forever.

3. His atoning death. (8:31-33)

Truth: The death of Jesus is not a DEFEAT of His divine authority and power, the death of Jesus is a DISPLAY of His divine authority and power.

“without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Hebrews 9:22 [ESV](#))

Truth: Without the cross, our soul is crushed by the guilt and shame of our sin. Our soul is weakened by the fear of future punishment. Our soul is weighed down under our failures. At the cross, at the cross the burden of our sin rolls away from us and we are free.

“My hope lives not because I am not a sinner, but because I am a sinner for whom Christ died; my trust is not that I am holy, but that being unholy, HE is my righteousness. My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done and in what He is now doing for me. Hallelujah!” Charles Spurgeon

Truth: Our soul needs to meditate upon and rejoice in Jesus’ atoning death. Without our rejoicing in Jesus’ death, we have no strength to overcome the enemies of sin and Satan.

4. His glorious promise. (8:34-38)

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:12-15 [ESV](#))

Truth: Our soul needs to meditate upon and rejoice in Jesus’ promised return. Without our rejoicing in Jesus’ second coming, we will grow discouraged by the present world and its problems.

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