



You Are Different

Mark 1:15; 8:31–35; 9:30, 10:32–52

The Big Idea: Fear invites us to follow the path of self-preservation. However, if we follow that path long enough, we will neither preserve nor have anything to show for our lives

The Bottom Line: Not so with you.

Introduction

If you're a marketplace leader, a community leader, or you're responsible for leading your family, Jesus has four words for you.

These four words stopped me in my tracks many times.

When I heed them, I'm a better leader.

When I don't, I gain the world but lose a bit of my soul—and the respect of people around me.

But ... More on that in a minute.

Review

In this series, we have been speaking about a story that should have died in Nero's Rome, but it didn't. It is the story of Jesus of Nazareth as told by Simon Peter dictated to and recorded by John Mark. It came to us known as the Gospel of Mark. Eventually, this first-century document was included in the Bible, but Mark wasn't writing the Bible. He was simply documenting Peter's experience as an eyewitness testimony of Jesus. Peter summarizes Jesus' message this way:

*“The time has come! The KINGDOM OF GOD is near.
REPENT and BELIEVE the good news!”
-Mark 1:15*

Over the last two weeks, Jesus accused religious leaders from Jerusalem of elevating their traditions above the commands of God. He called them hypocrites and sends them packing.

Then Jesus leads his crew up to Caesarea Philippi.

Tension

Jesus asks his disciples who they say he is, and He accepts their description of him as the Messiah. He then announces his new movement that we call the church.

Immediately after saying this, Jesus and his followers begin the long journey south toward Jerusalem. He reminds them once again of what awaits them in the big city.

Mark 8:31-32, “He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”

This was so confusing. The disciples had just announced their belief that Jesus is the Messiah. Can the Messiah be killed?

Truth

Read: Mark 8:21-35.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

-- Mark 8:34-45

Live on purpose.

Fear always invites you to follow the path of self-preservation.

What does love require of me?

Make sure your story is worth telling.

Read: Mark 10:32-52.

Conclusion

Mark 10:43, “Not so with you.”

Leverage your power and resources for the benefit of those with less power and fewer resources. Love as we’ve been loved.

Application

What can I do to help?

Next Steps

- Memorize Mark 10:43.
- What does love require of you?
- What can I do to help?