

***STUDIES
IN
MARK***

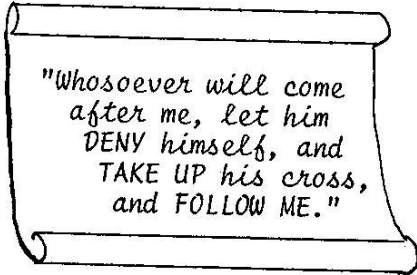


Mrs. Dorothy O. Wellwood

LESSON 30

MARK 8:34

FOLLOWING JESUS



“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.’” (Mark 8:34)

Our last lesson shines like a light on this new lesson for today. At last the disciples of Jesus had their eyes opened. At last they saw who Jesus really was. From their hearts they could say with Peter, “You are the Christ.” Remember that the name **Christ** means the **Sent One**. He was the One God sent. It was like they said, “now we know that God sent You.” For thousands of years the Jews had been waiting for God to send the Saviour. Now He was really here.

Ever since Jesus had called these men to follow Him, He had been teaching them many lessons. Now that they saw Him as the Son of God, He taught them a great lesson about following Him. First He said,

“I must suffer much. People will turn their backs on Me. I must be killed. I will rise again in three days.”

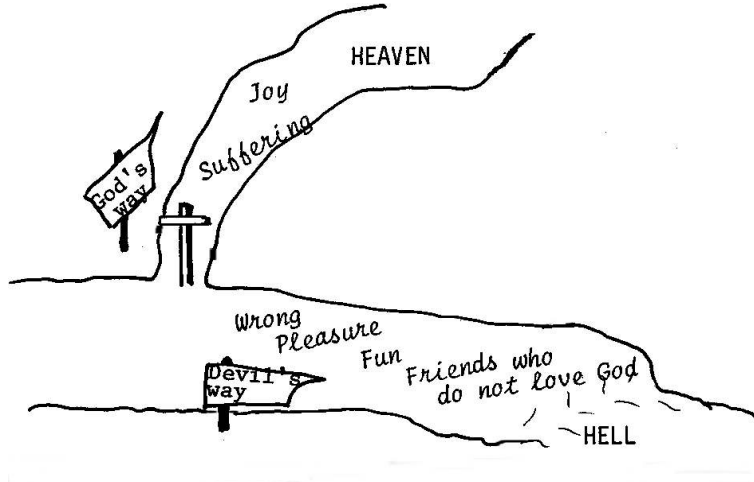
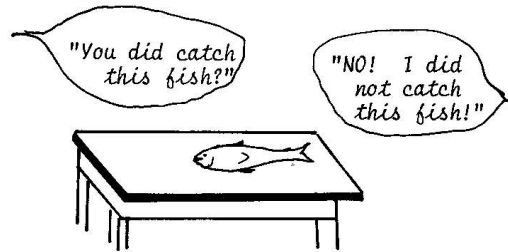
Would the disciples still be ready to follow Him?

1. Read Luke 9:23, and copy it down.
2. What word do you find in Luke 9:23 about how often we have to take up our cross?
3. In Mark 8:34, and in Luke 9:23 there are three things we must do if we really mean business about following Jesus. What are these three things?

- 1) .
- 2) .
- 3) .

The word **deny** has a lot of meaning. If somebody points finger at you and says, "You told me you caught the biggest fish in the river."

And you say, "NO. That is not true. I did not say that." This means that you deny that you said that. You said, "NO."



The devil says to you, "Do not follow Jesus. Follow me." The devil says, "I will teach you the pleasures of sin." He says he will give you lots of fun, and lots of friends. The devil does not tell you that the things he gives you are empty, and in the end will make you

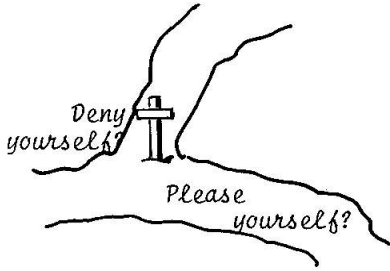
sad and sick and lonely. The devil does not tell you that if you follow him, he will lead you to hell - the lake of fire, where you will be with him and his demons forever. The devil does not want you to deny yourself. He wants you to please yourself, even if what you do is wrong. He does not want you to say "NO" to sin and self.

Jesus said, "Follow Me." He never said the road is easy. Jesus said, "I must suffer. I must be rejected. I must die." It is not easy to follow Jesus, but it is wonderful. In Hebrews 12:2 it says to look unto Jesus. He is the One Who starts and finishes our faith. Who for the joy that was ahead of Him endured the cross. He did not care about the shame. Now He is seated by God's right hand in heaven. That is it. Jesus will give us His Joy.

4. Look up John 15:11, and fill in the missing part,

"These things I have spoken unto you, that _____, and that _____."

Are you standing at the cross roads? JESUS says, "Follow Me." The road is hard, but it is full of joy, and there is heaven ahead.



The devil says, "Follow me." The road is easy, and lots of fun. But there is no joy, and there is hell ahead.

What will you do? Jesus says, "**Deny** yourself." Satan says, "Please yourself."

How are you going to make up your mind when you are a Christian? Your friends want you to go to a party with them. You know they will be drinking. There will be bad talk. There may be other sins like adultery. The devil says it will be fun. Jesus says to deny yourself. What will you do?

Underline the right answer.

- 1) Say, "I'll just go along for a little while."
- 2) Say, "I'll go, but maybe I will not do all those bad things."
- 3) Say "YES" to Jesus, and big "NO" to the devil. Then walk away and have nothing to do with the devil and his temptation.

The devil will be mad. You and Jesus will be glad if you give the right answer.

The next thing Jesus says in Mark 8:34 is, "take up his cross." What does that mean?

5. Read Galatians 2:20. Paul says in this verse,

"I am _____ with _____, nevertheless I _____."

If by faith we follow Jesus all the way to the cross we believe that our old sinful life is nailed to the cross with Jesus, our Savior. By faith we follow Him from the cross to the grave. By faith we rise with Him from the dead, to live a new life in Him.

6. Another thought about taking up your cross is suffering. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the sin He carried caused more suffering than we could ever know, but what does it say in Philippians 1:29?

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ _____."

1 Peter 4:12 to 19 has something very good to say about suffering. Read it and think about it. Then you should be ready to say, "Yes, Lord Jesus, I will deny myself. I will take up my cross. I will follow You."

STUDIES IN MARK by Dorothy O. Wellwood.

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