



Teaching, Preaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation

## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

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TEXT: MARK 8:34-38

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO LIVE MY BEST LIFE?

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. “I am living my best life” \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Salvation is free – Jesus paid for it with His life \_\_\_\_\_
- C. However, discipleship costs – I pay for it with my life \_\_\_\_\_

#### EVERYONE, HEAR THIS

- A. Whoever desires to follow Me \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Deny yourself –
    - a. Deny = *aparneomai* = to forget one's self, to lose sight of one's self and one's own interests
    - b. What is self-denial?
    - c. Self-denial is a discipline
    - d. Deny (This imperative is aorist, giving a command to be obeyed at once)
  2. Take up your cross –
    - a. What is my cross?
    - b. My cross is more than a fashion statement
    - c. Take up (This imperative is aorist, giving a command to be obeyed at once)
  3. Follow Me –
    - a. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
    - b. Does following Jesus simply mean walking behind Jesus?
    - c. Can you follow/walk behind someone and not be in fellowship with him or her?
    - d. Follow = *akoloutheō* = to take the same road as another does, and fellowshiping on the road.
    - e. A true follower of Jesus is in fellowship with Jesus and follows Jesus' teachings
- B. What really matters most? \_\_\_\_\_
  1. If it matters most to save my life, I will lose it
    - a. Life = *psychē* = soul (The essence of who we are; the seat of personality, feelings, desires, affections; the heart and mind; the will)
    - b. If it matters most to live in the self-gratification of the soul, I will lose it
  2. If it matters most to give my life for Jesus' sake and the sake of the gospel, I will save it
    - a. If I give my life for Jesus' sake and the sake of the gospel, I will find the self-gratification of the soul
    - b. Augustine, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”
  3. What matters most: gaining the whole world or losing my soul?
  4. What will I give in exchange for my soul?
- C. Am I ashamed of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
  1. If I am ashamed of Jesus and His words now
  2. Jesus will be ashamed of me then