

***A Challenging  
Invitation***

***Mark 8:34-37***

## **Mark 8:34-37**

**34 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.**

**35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.**

**36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**

**37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

# Introduction

## A. Different kinds of invitations

### 1. Invitations to salvation

**Romans 10:13**

**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

### 2. Invitations to find comfort

**Matthew 11:28**

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

### 3. Invitations to pray in times of need

**Jeremiah 33:3**

**Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.**

# Introduction

## B. Now a challenging invitation

1. An invitation to discipleship (v 34)
2. An invitation to count the cost (v 36)
3. An invitation to suffering and deprivation

## Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

# **I. A Challenge To Forget Self**

**A. “Let him deny himself”**

**B. This is not an easy challenge to accept due to our nature to be prominent**

**Mark 10:35-37**

**35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.**

**36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?**

**37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.**

# **I. A Challenge To Forget Self**

**C. Discipleship calls for giving Christ first place**

**1. Seek first the kingdom of God**

**Matthew 6:33**

**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his  
righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto  
you.**

# **I. A Challenge To Forget Self**

**C. Discipleship calls for giving Christ first place – cont'd**

**2. Christ has to have the preeminence**

**Colossians 1:17-18**

**17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

**18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

# I. A Challenge To Forget Self

**Who Sits On The Throne Of Your Life?**





## **II. A Challenge To Full Surrender**

**A. “Let him ....take up his cross”**

**B. The cross is about death**

**1. Jesus had just revealed his coming death**

**Mark 8:31**

**And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.**

## **II. A Challenge To Full Surrender**

### **B. The cross is about death**

#### **2. Peter rebelled at this message**

**Mark 8:32**

**And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.**

**He didn't yet understand God's plan of redemption**

## **II. A Challenge To Full Surrender**

**C. Taking up the cross is about full surrender**

**1. Christ surrendered himself to the cross to save us**

**Philippians 2:8**

**And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

## **II. A Challenge To Full Surrender**

**C. Taking up the cross is about full surrender**

**2. We are to surrender to Him in everything**

**Mark 10:28-30**

**28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.**

**29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,**

**30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

## **II. A Challenge To Full Surrender**

**D. What are you holding back from your Lord?**

**Luke 14:33**

**So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

# **III. A Challenge To Follow Our Savior**

**A. “Let him ....follow me”**

**B. Only the saved can follow Jesus**

**John 7:34**

**Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.**

### **III. A Challenge To Follow Our Savior**

**C. The indwelling Holy Spirit makes this possible**

**John 14:17**

**Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

**D. Following Christ will lead through difficult places**

**John 16:33**

**These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

**Will you accept the challenges of  
discipleship?**