

# Facts About Following

“Case For Christ” Series, (A Study of Mark’s Gospel, part 29)

Insights from Mark 8:34-38

June 19th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

## What Jesus knew about the crowd:

(back then and today)

- Wants a ... (not \_\_\_\_\_ )
- Wants it ... (not \_\_\_\_\_ )

## Following Jesus ...

- is ... v34a
- is ... v34b  
(Ezekiel 18:30-32, John 3:16)
- is ... v34c  
(Isaiah 42:16)
- “taking up your cross” means ...
  - I am ... (Galatians 2:20)
  - I am ... (Luke 9:23)
- is ... v35-37  
(1 Corinthians 2:9, John 10:10)
- is ... v38  
(Mark 1:17, 2 Timothy 3:12, Psalm 40:9-10)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our eighth week of our nine week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 8:34-38, Jesus described the cost of being a follower of Him.

Speaking of being costly, what is something you saved up for and purchased that was a stretch for you? Do you still have it? How long did you enjoy it? Are you glad you did it?

Jesus also described 'taking up our cross and following him'. Back in the first century when you 'took up your cross' ... there was no turning back.

Speaking of no turning back, when have you made a decision where you knew there was no turning back and you were all in and committed to see it through?

The last description of being a follower of Jesus, back then and today was the willingness to share with others about your faith in Jesus. (Mark 8:38)

Who are you grateful for that chose to share their faith in Jesus with you?

What did they share that encouraged you to pursue your own faith in Jesus?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:**

Let's read the two key passages from last Sunday. (Mark 8:34-38)

After reading these passages and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## **Digging Deeper:**

1. In Mark 8:34-38, Jesus described how following Him would be costly.

Following Him would require us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him.

In Luke 14:25-33, we have another passage where Jesus encouraged a crowd to count the cost before declaring their allegiance to Him.

Let's read this passage and share what insights we see related to the cost of following Jesus.

2. In Mark 8:38, we are encouraged to share with others about our faith in Jesus and God's love for them.

Jesus not only encouraged us to share with others, but modeled for us his willingness to share with others.

In John 4, we have a classic story of Jesus reaching out to a woman with the Good News.

Let's read this story in John 4:1-35 and share some insights we see with each other.

3. In sharing with others, let's read the following verses and share any further insights we receive with each other.

Colossians 4:6,

1 Peter 3:15

2 Corinthians 5:20

1 Corinthians 1:17

1 Corinthians 2:1-5,

Romans 1:16

## **Wrapping Up:**

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?