A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS

Mark 8:31–38

Key Verse: 8:34

1. After hearing Peter’s answer, what did Jesus begin to teach his disciples? (31) Why do you think he waited until now to explain this? What view of the Messiah did they have until now? How do kings usually gain their power and position? How would Jesus become the Messiah? (31; Isa53:4,5; Ac2:24)
2. How did Peter respond to his teaching? (32,33) Why was it hard for Peter to accept this? How did Jesus rebuke Peter? Why in front of the other disciples? Why was he using such strong language? Why does it mean to have in mind human concerns rather than God’s concerns?
3. Read verse 34. Whom did Jesus include in these instructions? What must one who would follow Jesus do first? What must we “deny”? (Gal5:24; 2:20) How is this difficult?
4. Read verse 34 again. What does a cross imply? After denying ourselves, what does it mean to take up one’s cross? (What did it mean for Jesus?) In what sense is our cross our purpose from God? (Ge1:28) What is your cross of purpose?
5. Read verse 34 again. What does it mean to follow someone? How had the disciples followed Jesus? How did he now want them to follow him (34a)? What kind of follower does Jesus want? (35–37) How can we do this amidst denying ourselves and taking up our crosses? (Heb12:1–3)
6. Why would someone be ashamed of Jesus? What promise and assurance do those who follow him have? How can we acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Messiah in this adulterous and sinful generation? Why must we?