

## ALL IN: FOLLOWER OR CONSUMER (Mark 8:27-38)

We're finishing up this short series called **All In - Why going through the motions is not enough.**

We've been talking about how many of us are simply going through the motions of Christianity, but without the soul of Christianity.

- **Week 1** we went through Romans 4, and we unpacked what the Bible means when it says we are saved by faith.
- **Week 2** we went through Romans 6. The Gospel is not "just forgiveness," it's also the power of new life. **it is about resurrection power, transformation of our lives from the inside out.**

**This week, I want to look at what is perhaps the biggest contributor of them all to a soulless Christianity.**

Most of you know what an **oxymoron** is, right? **It's when take a combination of words that are complete opposites and put them side by side.**

For instance:

**Jumbo Shrimp, Icy Hot, Pretty Ugly, Working Vacation, Bitter Sweet, Living Dead, Seriously funny, Government efficiency, or Microsoft Works.**

Today I want to talk about what has to be the worst oxymoron of them all: **half-committed Christian.**

Many people are trying to be half-committed Christians; **they want just enough of Jesus to get them to heaven, but not enough to make actual followers of Jesus, make them radical, or a fanatic for Jesus which was the norm in the Scriptures!**

**According to Jesus, there is no such thing as a half-committed follower.**

- **IOW, Jesus is not someone we can add to our life rather he is someone to whom we offer All of our lives. Amen!**

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life[d] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### Exposition of the text

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do **people** say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

The average people on the street thought **Jesus was great!** They were impressed with his **character**, his **power**, his **authority**, but they didn't have a **clue that Jesus was so much more!**

So Jesus hits the disciples themselves with the same question.

29 And he asked them, "But who do **you** say that I am?" Peter answered him, "**You are the Christ.**"

Now, this is a HUGE deal! Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ!

**So we clear, Christ was not Jesus last name. It wasn't Jesus Tyrone Christ. Christ was a title! This title means, "the promised one" THE MESSIAH, the appointed one who will save his people!**

This Christ, God had said, would **overthrow Roman oppression**, The Christ would **right all wrongs**, The Christ would **stop injustice and put an end to the curse.**

And the Jews had been waiting for the "Christ" for more than 3000 years! Peter says, "Jesus, we recognize that you are that one!"

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly.

Now, this would shocked Peter or any of the disciples! A Messiah that suffers? The Christ was supposed to put an end to suffering, not suffer and die himself! This was crazy talk!

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Peter pulls Jesus aside like a child in trouble and he lays into him!

But Jesus hits a spin move and faces all the disciples and responds

33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan!"

Now when Jesus says, "Get behind me Satan" he is not calling Peter Satan, he is saying what Peter is saying is from Satan. It is against God! Jesus must suffer, Jesus must die, Jesus must raise! That's why he came! Anything going against Jesus mission to die and raise is Satanic at its core!

For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Now, typically, rebukes are the kind of thing you do **privately**, right? So why does **Jesus rebuke Peter publicly**? Because what Peter said was **so dangerous that Jesus needed all the disciples hear him correct Peter!**

Jesus then tells them that to follow him we must do likewise! They must take up their cross!

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

1. **Deny yourself:** Give up your rights. Live as Christ directs! Say no to you and yes to Jesus!

- Now, here this, **if we were perfect** and Jesus told us to deny ourselves there would be no reason to listen. We are perfect.
- But we are **flawed, lost, broken, make terrible decisions....Jesus saying deny ourselves is loving!**
- If we are driving off a **cliff** with out lives and Jesus says no! Loving! (Prov. 14:12)

2. **Take up your cross:** Literally Come and die!

T/S: Jesus uses the image of taking up our cross, coming and dying, to confront a Satanic perversion of faith, held by many Christians and Peter at this point in his life. And its called **CONSUMER FAITH!**

## **2 ELEMENTS OF CONSUMER FAITH**

1. **You have consumer faith if you think of discipleship in terms of SELF-FULFILLMENT instead of SACRIFICE!**

Peter thought of the Christ as someone **who would make his life better**. Give him all his **desires**. And sadly so many people come to Jesus in the same way!

We think of God as **part genie in a bottle, part therapist, life coach, personal cheerleader, financial advisor**.

- A Jesus who **exists to revolve around you**
- a Jesus who exists to make your **life comfortable and bougie**,
- a Jesus who exists to **make everything better**,
- a Jesus who exists to be at **your beck and call. (snap your fingers and Jesus comes running)**
- **As a result** He is nothing more to us than someone **we use to fulfill our version of the American Dream!**
- He is nothing more than **accessory we add on to our lives!** "Look at my Jesus"

And Jesus confronted Peter's and our consumeristic faith by showing us what it means to follow him!

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"

Jesus is saying to follow him means to follow him to crucifixion! Q: What does this look like? The way of the cross....

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. - Isaiah 53:4-6

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! - John 1:29

- This is the picture of what Jesus **went through for our sin**.
- The **sacrifice he made so we would have him forever!**
- **But Not only that, this is the picture of what following Jesus looks like.**

When Christ calls man, he bids him come and die. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- A disciple is not someone who wants to **casually have Jesus around when he fits into his or her neat little schedule**
- A disciple is not someone who only **calls out for Jesus only when life is hard**

- A disciple is not someone who comes **to Jesus so he will shine on their career, their relationships and their family!**
- A disciple is not someone who **only wants Jesus around when they want something from him.**

You don't come to Jesus to add him to your life you come to Jesus to offer your whole life to him!

Q: Have you offered yourself to Jesus this way?

Q: Is Jesus someone you tried to add onto your life or someone whom you have offered all of your life to?

T/S:

## 2. You have consumer faith if your obedience to Christ has limits

Peter had been excited about following Jesus when it meant **healing, and power, and popularity.**

But now Jesus is talking about following him into a **life of suffering, sacrifice, and service. A life fully surrendered to Jesus!**

Salvation is free; It cost you absolutely NOTHING! But following Jesus will eventually cost you SOMETHING, maybe EVERYTHING!

**At some point your desires are going to go one way, and Jesus is going to tell you to go the other, and at that point you're going to have to decide how valuable he is to you.**

For instance, He tells you...

- To **end a relationship** you don't want to end (e.g. dating unbeliever?) You want that relationship and Jesus. Desires go one way and the lordship of Jesus goes another. You have to decide Jesus or the relationship?
- To change **your career or your major**
- To make a **financial sacrifice**
- To **forgive** (and you don't want to!) person crushed you deeply.
- To **speak the gospel** to people he has brought around you

**For some of you, he is telling you to get off the sidelines and JOIN THE CHURCH!**

- Church is **not just a weekend event**—Church is a **community you belong to!**
- Its a **family you commit too** through the **thick and thin!**
- And You know Jesus said it, but your still...NAH I'm good!
- Your good with **Coming and attending**, even though you know **Jesus is calling you to come and commit, to stop being a spectator and lock arms with your brothers and sisters for the sake of the gospel!**
- **Listen, Christian your lack of commitment to the body not only hurts you, it hurts the body!**

**Q: Is there a limit to, or conditions on, your surrender to Jesus?**

**Q: Am I All In?**

**A Consumer puts limits to their obedience to Jesus but a A Disciple says, "Everything I am, Everything I have, regardless of the cost belongs to Jesus"**

T/S:

Jesus gives **3 motivations to move from a consumer to truly following Him!**

### 1. God brings life through obedience

35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

**Obedience to Jesus sometimes feels like death, but through your obedience God brings life.**

**The forgiveness you offer**, feels like death, however, through your obedience to forgive, **God can restore a relationship to life!** But not only that he will **release you from the bitterness in your own heart!**

**The unhealthy and ungodly relationship you walk away from (that you don't want to leave, feels like death, cant live without them!) becomes the means God opens up the possibility for a healthy, life-giving relationship for you!**

**That ministry you engage in**, or the **career change you know you need to make**, is going to not only bring life to others, but also renew you and your families faith!

**God takes your financial sacrifice, though it feels like death**, and brings life through it—not just through the ministries that you give it to, but in your heart as well. Kids heart - helps them not be materialistic!

**Obedience often feels like death, but it's God's instrument to bring life!**

T/S:

### 2. You cannot hold on to your life anyway

36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

**Whatever you are holding onto that keeps you from full surrender to Jesus—inevitably you are going to lose it one day!**

Jesus asks the question: **Q: What would you hang onto NOW that would be worth your soul THEN?**

**IOW, fast forward to 5 minutes after you die: What is there in this life you hold on to now that your going to look back and say, yep it was worth it! Totally forfeited my soul for eternity to hold onto that while alive, boom that was worth it!**

- **Many people won't consider the Lordship of Jesus because they want to hold onto sexual freedom.** I want to shake them and ask, **"Is that really worth it?"** You really feel like 5 minutes into eternity the memory of some brief sexual escapades that are not that awesome anyway, is worth your soul for eternity?
- Many people who reject the Lordship of Jesus because they **want out of their marriage to be with someone new.** Is leaving your marriage for a new spouse worth your soul?
- Is **control over your career**, or your **calendar** your **finances**, worth rejecting Jesus?

**ILL: 10 million dollars in cash money is yours if you let me chop off your left pinkie with my butcher knife who would be in?**

Deal 2: all fingers?

Deal 3: left arm?

Deal 4: both arms, both legs, nose, ears, and eyes? **NO ONE!** Why? What good is 10 million dollars if you cant enjoy it?

**Essentially what Jesus is saying - people are GIVING UP WAY more to have far far far less!**

**Q: What are you holding on to that is worth your soul? NOTHING!**

T/S:

### **3. Jesus was not ashamed of you**

38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**If you don't want to be associated with me now then don't try to call on my name when you are standing before God the Father! If your embarrassed of Jesus and the price he paid for you, if you wont identify with him then when he comes he will be ashamed of you!**

**Q: HOW UNASHAMED OF YOU WAS JESUS? Jesus, who should have been ashamed of us, wasn't.**

### **ARRESTED & SCOURGED FOR US**

The Bible records that after Jesus was **betrayed** and **arrested** he was **beaten by a mob of men all night long.**

63 The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. 64 They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" 65 And they said many other insulting things to him. - Luke 22:63-65

Then the Bible says simply says this,

**Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. - John 19:1**

Now, scourging was so horrible that **many didn't survive the beating.**

Jesus would have been **stripped Jesus naked, fastened his hands above his head** and **tied him** to a post exposing his entire **backside.** Then **two executioners** would stand on either side of Jesus and they whipped him with something called a **cat o' nine tails!**

Was a Whip of leather with balls made out of metal on the some of the ends that would **tenderize the human flesh** as you would a **piece of meat for a barbecue.** But not only that, there were also **metal hooks** at the end to dig into the flesh.

- So the executioner would have whipped Jesus across the back, and all the leather straps would spread, and the flesh would be tenderized by the metal balls, and then the hooks would sink in deeply into Jesus flesh, and then the executioner would give a tug on the handle to ensure that all of the hooks were deep into Jesus' body, and then **he would literally rip the flesh off his body. And this would penetrate down to deep tissue.**
- Sometimes, history records that a **rib** would break and come flying off a man's body, **and this happened over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over to Jesus (39x).**

And this was predicted in Isaiah 52:14,

**his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind**

IOW, His appearance was so **messed up;** that had Jesus' **mother or brothers** just walked up on him during his scourging, they wouldn't have even recognized him. **He would have looked more like a bloodied animal or a pile of meat than a human being.**

**Jesus body is now in absolute shock from all the trauma, and the process of death has begun.**

### **A CROWN AND A CROSSBAR FOR US**

But they were not done they give him a crown of thorns

16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace and they called together the whole battalion. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. - Mark 15:16-20

- As they led him out to crucify him they **made Jesus carry a Roman crossbar**. This crossbar would weigh upwards of a **hundred pounds**.
- **Q: Can you imagine what that felt like?** His **back is bloodied and traumatized**. He's got **wounds down to the deep tissue** and they throw this hundred pound wooden crossbar on his back to carry on a long walk to where he was to be crucified!
- As Jesus is carrying it, he's so **exhausted and near death**, that the **Bible records that he fell facedown and collapsed under the weight of the crossbar**.
- Now, medical experts say that when this happened to Jesus the weight and the pressure on the chest as he hit the ground, would've been the **equivalent of a head-on high-speed car wreck**.
- **At the very least this would have crushed Jesus ribs causing massive internal hemorrhaging and bleeding.**

That's why we next read this,

21 And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene...to carry his cross. - Mark 15:21

### RAILROAD SPIKES FOR US

- When Jesus made it to the place he was to be crucified they laid him down and drove the **equivalent of railroad spikes** through the **most sensitive nerve centers on the human body, his hands and his feet!**
- Then they took the cross that Jesus was nailed to and it is **dropped into the ground, and his body shakes violently**.
- (imagine the pain...not in a place that was hidden, in a place everyone could see, think Jesus being crucified at the local super Walmart where everyone could see!)

**And at this moment in excruciating pain, watching those whom knit together in the womb mocking him, Jesus could've called down a legion of angels and to take them out and rescue him! But Jesus didn't he kept silent!**

Again, Isaiah had predicted seven hundred years ago,

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. - Isaiah 53:7

Jesus kept silent Because **ON THAT CROSS Jesus traded places with us**. He became our substitute, our sin was put on Him!

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**He became cursed for us.**

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" - Galatians 3:13

**Jesus was not ashamed of us!**

**Out of love for us, Jesus not only identified himself with us, he picked up a cross to save those who could not save themselves!**

**JESUS WAS NOT ASHAMED OF US!**

Q: WHEN IT COMES TO JESUS, WHAT IS THERE TO BE ASHAMED OF?

Q: Is this not a God worth leaving everything for?

**COMMUNION**