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August 7, 2022

## Being an Authentic Follower of Jesus

Mark 8:34–38 (HCSB)

*Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, "If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me, and the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his life? <sup>37</sup> What can a man give in exchange for his life? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

### 1. Becoming an authentic follower begins with a \_\_\_\_\_

v 34 *Summoning the crowd along with His disciples, He said to them, "If anyone wants to be My follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Being an \_\_\_\_\_ follower of Jesus Christ means:

- We deny ourselves.
- We take up our cross.
- We follow Him.

### 2. Becoming an authentic follower requires \_\_\_\_\_

v 35-37 *"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me, and the gospel will save it. For what does it benefit a man to gain the whole world yet lose his life? What can a man give in exchange for his life?"*

- In trying to desperately hold on to control of our lives, we can actually lose it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ comes when we surrender to Jesus as Lord.
- Discipleship follows with deciding who is in charge.

### 3. Becoming an Authentic follower demands a \_\_\_\_\_

v 38 *"For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

- Hiding our faith looks like we are ashamed of Him.
- Hiding our faith has severe \_\_\_\_\_.
- We declare our devotion to Christ publicly.

#### **The Next Step:**

Choose to become an authentic follower of Jesus by surrendering to Him as Lord publicly.