

“What Disciples Believe Pt. 2”
Mark 8:11-38
6/30/24
Message 20

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “What Disciples Believe”

- **Some Thoughts to Consider Before we DIG into our Study**

- **FB Page - JC Ryle Quotes**

- **Show Pic**

- “Never go to a church that is more worried about keeping you as a member than telling you the TRUTH”
 - I Know you guys know this!
 - But it is important to repeat

- **Why is it Important to Repeat**

- **Because the Wayward church in America**

- That the Apostle Paul would write a letter to

- **The focus of the Wayward American church**

- Entertainment

- Leonard Ravenhill; “The less power a church has, the more entertainment it produces”

- Not Wanting Confront Sin
 - Competition – Apollos vs. Paul
 - NOT ABLE to Stand Sound Doctrine

- Making Consumers vs Disciples
- Focus on SELF
 - The spirit of our age screams
 - Save yourself
 - Love yourself
 - Pamper yourself
 - Live for yourself
 - MY Time
 - MY Weekend
 - MY MY
- 2 Quotes Tozer – JC Ryle

- **Show PICS**

- JC Ryle
 - *J Martin; I am Not interested in a self-focused church BUT a God focused church*

- **My Precious Brothers & Sisters**

- **The Message that Jesus GAVE us about SELF**

- DIE to self!
- Live for Him and His purpose for your life
- Live to SERVE CHRIST & OTHERS
 - Sacrificially SERVE others

- Learn to SERVE when its NOT EASY and it COST you something

- **Remember**

- This life is NOT our own

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- This Life is NOT a DRESS rehearsal –
 - It is the REAL deal
- What we do here today will affect what happens in the next life which is FOREVER
 - 1st Eternal Home?
 - With Christ or in Hell
 - 2nd Eternal Reward
 - What we do for Jesus here will affect us forever
 - God want us to USE what He has given us for His Kingdom
 - At Church – At Home – At Work
 - This will look different to us BUT we have the same expectation from God
 - GIVE our Lives ONLY to HIM!
 - For His Purpose

- **Now Last week We look at 2 of the 3 points in What Disciples Believe**

- Disciples Believe In The Power Of Jesus vs. 10-26
- Disciples Believe In The Person Of Jesus vs. 27-33
- Disciples Believe In HIS Plan & Purpose For Our Lives vs. 24-38

Disciples Believe In The Power Of Jesus vs. 11-26

- **First: Jesus Teaching On Leaven vs. 10-15**

- **Jesus Had just feed the 4000 / They get into a boat**
 - They arrive in the region of Dal-ma-nu-tha.
 - Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him – Seeking a Sign
 - Jesus Sighed – Frustration
- **They departed again**
 - Disciples forgot Bread
 - Show to gals traveling with them
 - Jesus Teaches on Leaven
 - **Beware Of Leaven v. 15**

Mark 8:15 (NKJV)

15 Then He charged them, saying, *“Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”*

- **Leaven**
 - A type of yeast
 - You add to the bread dough that makes the dough rise.

- Without leaven, you get a tortilla.
- With leaven, you get a loaf of bread.

- **Leaven – A Represents SIN**

- Jesus is WARNING Them to Beware of the SINS coming from the
 - Pharisees
 - Sadducees (Matthew Gospel)
 - Herod

- **The Leaven of the Pharisees**

- Legalism / Hypocrisy /
 - Looking Good in front of People But far from God
 - Matthew 23 – Jesus Condemns this behavior
- How About US
 - Are wanting to look good Infront of MEN
 - But in reality, our hearts are far from Him

- **The Leaven of Herod**

- Worldliness
- Sexual Pleasure
- Ease of life
- This is the church / Christian

- Where there is no difference in lifestyles of those of the lost world.

- **The Leaven of the Sadducees**

- Liberalism
- They didn't believe in the supernatural, in the power of God, in miracles -
- The spiritual Liberals don't understand God
- Liberalism destroys everything it touches
- **The Disciples are Confused**
 - Jesus Clears up confusion
 - Do you REALLY understand WHO I AM?!

- **Second: The Touch Of Jesus On The Blind Man vs. 22-26**

- **1st He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him vs. 23-26**
 - 1st This Miracle is ONLY found only in Mark
 - 2nd It Raises several questions.
 - 1st Why did Jesus lead the man out of the town before healing him?
 - 2nd Why didn't He heal by simply touching the man?
 - 3rd Why use such an unconventional means as saliva?
 - 4th Why didn't the man receive perfect sight immediately?
 - (This is the only cure in the Gospels which took place in stages.)

- 5th Why did Jesus forbid the man to tell about the miracle in the town?
- Answers
 - I DON'T KNOW

Disciples Believe In The Person Of Jesus vs. 27-33

• First: Who Do Men SAY That I AM? vs. 27-30

- **1st Jesus Asked**
 - Who do men say that I am?
- **2nd The Answer**
 - John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah... v. 28
 - Confusion
 - Still Confusion
- **3rd But who do you say that I am? v. 29a**

Mark 8:29 (NKJV)

29 He said to them, ***“But who do you say that I am?”*** Peter answered and said to Him, *“You are the Christ.”*

- **BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM**
 - The MOST important question that a person will ever ask
 - Who Is Jesus to YOU?!
- **Peter Answered and said - “The Christ of God.”**
 - Matthew records that Jesus said...

- “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”
- Jesus went on to say that upon this rock (Peter’s Confession), I will build my church
- TRUE BELIEVERS believed in the true identity of Jesus Christ

• **Second: The Son Of Man Must Suffer vs. 31-33**

○ **1st That the Son of Man must suffer many things v. 31**

▪ **1st He MUST SUFFER**

- 1st The CROSS
 - Something they failed to understand
 - Luke 9:43-45
- 2nd He wasn’t a victim of circumstances
 - It was under a divine plan that He suffer and be rejected

▪ **2nd Resurrection**

- Resurrection = Our VICTORY

○ **2nd Peter Rebukes Jesus v. 32**

- Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him
 - Peter’s intent was love for Jesus
 - But he was unwittingly used of Satan.

- You don't have to be demon possessed for Satan to use you, and we need to be on guard lest we are unwittingly used.
- **3rd Get behind Me, Satan! v. 33**
 - This was a strong rebuke from Jesus

Believe In HIS Plan & Purpose For Our Lives vs. 24-38

• First: The Condition Of Discipleship v. 34

Mark 8:34 (NKJV)

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, *"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

- **1st Not EASY to HEAR in our day of "Self-Esteem"**
 - We have all grown up in the Self Esteem World / A "ME" first world
 - This is the last thing we want to hear...
 - Illustrations
 - James Davidson Hunter pointed out in his landmark study "Evangelicalism: The Coming Generation" in **1993**
 - *The Coming Generation, fascination with the self and with our own ways of seeing things has become a well-established cultural feature of evangelicalism. Self-focus is part of the modern evangelical identity! This is why increasing numbers of evangelical Christians care little about the glory of God or reaching out to a lost world. For them Christianity exists to enhance their lives, their marriages, their bank accounts, their prestige. But to*

bear a cross, to pay a price for standing for Christ—no thanks.

- Many “Christian” Recovery Movements
 - Self- Esteem and learning to love and accept yourself unconditionally are at the heart of many recovery movements!
 - Illustration
 - “The Twelve Steps—A Spiritual Journey”
 - Lists a number of milestones in recovery / Here are a few: (p. 153)
 - We have a strong identity and generally approve of ourselves.
 - We are recovering through loving and focusing on ourselves...
 - We feel comfortable standing up for ourselves when it is appropriate.
 - We love people who love and take care of themselves.
 - We have a healthy sense of self-esteem
 - **So Critical...**
 - If we want to have the fullness of life that Jesus has for us
 - IT INVOLVES
 - Dying to SELF

- LIVING FOR HIM AND OTHERS

- 2nd The Conditions of Discipleship - NOTE 3 things

Mark 8:34 (NKJV)

34 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “*Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*”

- **1st Separation From Selfish Desires “Deny Himself”**

- **Deny**

- Greek: Aparnéomai
- Means: To completely disown, to utterly separate oneself from someone
- Illustrated
 - The SAME word Jesus used to describe Peter’s denial of Him
 - Each time Peter was confronted about his relationship to Jesus
 - Peter more strongly denied knowing JESUS
 - **That is exactly the kind of denial a believer is to make in regard to himself**

- **Again... We are self-focused**

- We spend the better part of our lives
 - Focus on seeking to answer these question...
 - How am I going to please ME...

- Take care of ME...
- Do what is best for ME
- **Jesus Teaches...**
 - We must Develop a new way of thinking
 - That translates into a NEW WAY OF LIVING
 - NOT - How am I going to please myself...
 - **BUT - How can I PLEASE Him & SERVE Others**
 - The only obsession a disciple should have - is for Jesus Christ
 - He must be the most important pursuit of our lives
 - More important than
 - Money
 - Careers
 - Hobbies
 - Relationships
 - Even our own personal happiness
 - In FACT
 - We will never find personal happiness
 - Until we are fully committed to Him...it's the by-product of knowing Him

Psalm 144:15 (NKJV)

15 Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

- **So the First Condition**

- Deny Self –
 - Speaks of a new mindset we are to have –
 - Separation From Selfish Desires

- **2nd Seeking God's Will Above My Own "Take Up his Cross Daily"**

- **What does this mean, to take up your cross?**

- Some people have the idea
 - That this is some sort of a Burden to Bear or Load they have to carry...
 - I have this problem in my life...
 - I just need to bear the cross
- WELL In ancient times, when they watched someone take up a cross...
 - It meant a one-way trip to death...
 - They were going out to be crucified
 - DEATH TO SELF

- **Biblically we see 2 things**

- **1st The Way I Regard God's Will**

- The Cross was the ultimate WILL of the Father for His Son

- So my Cross also means God's WILL for me
- What It Looks like
 - I'm willing to DIE... and LIVE for Jesus
 - To LEAVE my personal goals, desires and ambitions
 - That EVERYTHING is now Subject to His Authority and WILL in my life
 - No more planning my tomorrows without God's direction...
 - Its ok to set goals...but now I seek the Lord's direction and guidance...DAILY I consult the Lord
 - I want them to be His goals...NOT MINE!
 - It means that His will for my life is PRIORITY

Psalm 37:5 (NKJV)

5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

- Illustration
 - A soldier is required to be obedient...
 - Even if it results in his death...and this is acceptable

- *Jim Elliot; Father, take my life, yea, my blood if Thou wilt, and consume it with Thine enveloping fire. I would not save it, for it is not mine to save. Have it, Lord, have it all. Pour out my life as an oblation for the world. Blood is only of value as it flows before Thine altar.*

- **2nd The Way I Receive God's Word (Turn to James 1)**

James 1:19–27 (NKJV)

- 19** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;
- 20** for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- 21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- 22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- 23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;
- 24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.
- 25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.
- 26** If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.
- 27** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- How Do WE Receive God's Word?

- **1st It involves Recognizing the Bible is God's Word**

- I have to believe God's Word is true

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Immaturity & Self-Deception
 - Run rampant when I doubt God's Word
 - Is the Word of God the FINAL authority in your life
- **2nd It involves Realizing that God knows best**
 - If He's Encouraging its true...
 - If He's Warning its true...
 - If He's Disciplining its true...
- **3rd It involves Responding Now**
 - Jesus said,
 - "He who has ears, let him hear!"
 - Is our heart "swift to hear"?
 - If I hear a message and I'm not willing to respond to it
 - I run the risk of my Christianity becoming just a form of entertainment, living off of stimulating messages
 - If that happens, I'm deceiving myself...I'm backsliding! (James 1:22)
- **4th "Slow To Speak" (19b)**
 - We have two ears and one mouth

- Which ought to remind us to listen more than we speak
- 5th “**Slow To Wrath**” (19c)
 - Don’t get angry with God’s Word...
 - Anger will NOT produce the desired work of God in your life only rebellion
 - Like a person who breaks a mirror because they don’t like what they see, people rebel against God’s Word because it reveals the truth about them

▪ **3rd Submission To The Lordship Of Jesus Christ “and Follow Me”**

- It’s the Presence Tense...
 - Which means “Keep on Following Me”
- The word disciple means FOLLOWER –
 - Speaks of extreme DEVOTION
 - It’s a commitment to a Christ-like lifestyle!
 - Application
 - If you have blown it (Sinned) Repent and keep following
 - Make following Jesus a lifestyle

• **Second: The Consequences Of Discipleship vs. 35-38**

- **1st Saving Your Life v. 35**

Mark 8:35 (NKJV)

35 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

▪ **1st Who doesn't want to save his life?**

- But according to Jesus, as a disciple I stop trying to

- Protect

- My interests

- My little kingdom

- *Alexander Maclaren; "The less of our energies are consumed in asserting ourselves, and scrambling for our rights, and cutting in before other people, so as to get the best places for ourselves, the more we shall have to spare for better things; and the more we live in the future, and leave God to order our ways, the more shall our souls be wrapped in perfect peace."*

▪ **2nd We Should LOSE our Lives for Him**

- *One Commentator Wrote; "The Christian must realize that he is given life, not to keep it for himself, but to spend it for others; not to husband its flame, but to burn himself out for Christ and for men."*

- The REAL secret to life is lose your life for Jesus

- Live for HIM and OTHERS

- Live to Serve OTHERS

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

- The word “labor” means laboring to the point of exhaustion
 - So critical we LEARN TO SERVE when it is NOT EASY
- **3rd Application - We MUST SERVE**
 - Use what God has given us
 - Parable of the Talents Matthew 25
 - Context:
 - Jesus’ Second Coming
 - Gave us the Parable of the 10 Virgins (Brides)
 - Next Jesus gives the Parables of the Talents
 - What is a Talent
 - It’s not an ability to tap dance or entertain
 - BUT a unit of money worth at least \$1,200 in modern terms, and likely much more.
 - Or if you will Doing Business for God
 - One was given 5, another 2 and another 1
 - The ones given 5 & 2 did something with what was given them
 - They receive a well done
 - The person given one did nothing

Matthew 25:24–30 (NKJV)

24 *“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

25 *And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’*

26 *“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

27 *So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

28 *So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*

29 *‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*

30 *And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

- The main point of this parable is clear

- Our readiness for Jesus’ return is determined by our stewardship of the resources that He has given us.

- It is a matter of being about our Fathers business before He returns

- In light of this parable, we must ask ourselves:

- What have we done with

- Our knowledge?

- Our time?

- Our money?

- Our abilities?

- *Guzik; “The sins of omission [what we don’t do] may ultimately be*

more dangerous than the sins of commission [what we do].”

○ **2nd Achieving Your Goals v. 36-37**

Mark 8:36–37 (NKJV)

36 *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*

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

▪ **1st What is the profit if you get all of YOUR goals and then go to hell**

• Question = How satisfying do you think it is?

- To be the richest man in hell!
- To be the smartest man in hell!

• Illustration:

- When J.D. Rockefeller died a reporter asked the estate manager,

- “How much did Mr. Rockefeller leave behind?”

- The Answer – “EVERYTHING”

- You can’t take it with you - NO U-HAULS IN HEAVEN

- If in the attaining of your highest ambition you lost your soul, WHAT is the profit to you?

▪ **2nd PUT Your Focus on HEAVEN**

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)

19 *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

20 *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- **This World is coming to an END Soon / if not YOUR life is**
 - Think about it...
 - Live For Jesus
- **3rd Confessing Your Faith v. 38**

Mark 8:38 (NKJV)

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

▪ **1st Confess HIM**

Matthew 10:32–33 (NKJV)

32 *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.*

33 *But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

- **No Secret Agent Christians...**
 - Some don't want to be vocal about their faith or bring up the Bible because it might offend someone
 - But Jesus says you can't be my disciple and be ashamed of me!
- **2nd Don't Be ashamed of His Doctrine**
 - Sadly the church today is attempting to run away from God's Truth because they don't match the world of today

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

Closing

- Read: “Like what He likes”
 - I had walked life's way with an easy tread,
I had traveled where pleasures and comfort lead
Until one day in a quiet place,
I met the Master face to face.
 - With station and rank and wealth for my goal,
Much thought for my body but none for my soul,
I'd entered to win this life's mad race,
When I met the Master face to face.
 - I built my towers and reared them high,
'Til they had pierced the blue of the sky.
I'd sworn to rule with an iron mace,
When I met my Master face to face.
 - I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see,
That His eyes, full of sorrow, were fixed upon me.
I faltered and fell at his feet that day,
While my castles melted and vanished away.
 - Melted and vanished and in their place
Nothing else could I see but the Master's face.
My thoughts are now for the souls of men,
I had lost my life to find it again.
 - Since that day in a quite place,
When I met the Master face to face.
- Thomas à Kempis wrote:
 - Jesus has many who love his kingdom in heaven, but few who bear his cross.
 - He has many who desire comfort, but few who desire suffering.

- He finds many to share his feast, but few his fasting.
- All desire to rejoice with him, but few are willing to suffer for his sake.
- Many follow Jesus to the breaking of bread, but few to the drinking of the cup of his passion.
- Many admire his miracles, but few follow him in the humiliation of the cross.