

The Road Less Traveled
Mark 8:27-38
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the way down the Christian road of life.

- Intro:
1. What motivates the Christian to live for Christ daily?
 2. What does it take to walk the lonely road of faithful Christian living?

I. The Confession (Recognizing the requirement of knowing who Christ is)

A. The 1st Question

1. Why ask the question? (**v.27**)
 - a. How did people view Christ then?
 - b. How do people view Christ today?
2. How some answered (**v.28**)
 - a. The world's view was revealed

B. The 2nd Question

1. Jesus 2nd question, who do you say I am (**v.29a**)
 - a. How do Christians view Christ today?
2. Peter's reply (**v.29b**)
 - a. How does Peter's response compare to yours?

II. The Prediction (Recognizing the requirement of Christ's death)

A. Jesus' Predictions about His earthly future (v.31)

1. Christ predicts what awaited Him
 - a. Suffer many things (**v.31a**)
 - b. Be rejected (**v.31b**)
 - c. Be killed (**v.31c**)
 - d. After 3 days rise again (**v.31d**)

B. The Rebukes

1. Peter's rebuke (**v.32**)
2. Christ's rebuke (**v.33**)
3. What these rebukes mean to us.
 - a. God's plan for Christ would play out despite anyone's actions for it or against it.

III. The Requirement (Recognizing the requirement of daily Christian living)

A. The requirements (**v.34**)

1. Deny Himself (**James 4:10**)
 - a. Deny worldly lifestyle
 - b. Humble yourself and repent
2. Take up his cross (**James 1:21**)
 - a. Obeying the gospel allows one the ability to take up their cross (daily Christian living)
3. Follow Me (**John 14:15**)
 - a. Faithfully following God every day, not just on your conversion day.

B. A Warning (v.35-38)

1. Sacrificing our soul for worldly gains does not bring eternal rewards. (v.35-37)
2. There are great rewards for confessing Christ in word and in deed (v.38)

IV. Lessons for Us Today

A. The actions of Christ require a response from you.

1. Who Christ is requires us to believe in Him.
2. What He has done requires us to place our obedient faith in Him.

B. The response is choosing to walk the road of the Christian life.

1. The rewards of carrying our cross daily are eternal in nature.
2. The road is lonely, the road is difficult but it's the only one that leads to Heaven.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Taking up the cross of Christ sends a person down a lonely road.
2. The Christian life is indeed the road less traveled.
3. This lonely road is the only one that Christian can walk on that will please God.
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9