

Habits

ANCIENT PRACTICES FOR TODAY'S WORLD

OPENING UP



Submission is a voluntary yielding to the authority or desire of another. Today, we often view this as a sign of weakness. What does the habit of yielding to the authority of God look like in your life?

TEXT



Submission | Mark 8:34-38

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 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."

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: You must lose your life to save it.

1. Following the way of the cross (v 34-35)
2. Dying to the ways of the world. (v 36-37)
3. Unashamedly finding new life in Christ. (v 38)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- An important reason for the submission to Jesus is in recognizing who he is. When was the first time you remember being faced with that question (v27)
- It seems like the default can start to be to make decisions based on what I think or what I feel. Is it possible there are areas of your life where you haven't been following the way of the cross?
- The life of Jesus reflects a heart of humility. (Phil 2:6-8) Discuss the normal culture that surrounds your daily norms at work, home, or school. Are you surrounded by mutual submission?
- It could be said that the opposite of submission is entitlement. How does this type of posture damage our relationship with the Lord?
- Jesus teaches that we must die to the ways of the world. John 13:3-8 gives an example of what this looks like. What are the places where you have been encouraged to wash the feet of those closest to you?
- In chapter 9 we read about the transfiguration. Peter had already recognized Jesus as the Christ. How has submission to Jesus helped you in your viewing of the Lord?

CHALLENGE



We can try to cling to the world. We can hold on to our own lives and try to pursue our own story, desires, and appetites. Or, we go back to the challenge that Jesus gave: 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 will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

We are all surrounded by a group of people we do life with. Some are in this room. You work or go to school with a select group of people. You have neighbors and relatives. Our challenge this week is to pray and ask the Lord to show what a step of faith in the area of submission looks like. It might involve generosity, forgiveness, or serving.

John Piper said it well, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." Be intentional in the habit of submission by pushing away the temptation to live with entitlement in your relationship with those around you.

PRAYER



Lord, thank you the gift of habits, rhythms, disciplines that you have given. I know that these are given to move me to a place of spiritual health. I know that I need your power and strength in the area of submission. It seems to natural to live in a way that I chase what I want, how I want, when I want. Help me to see the power of submission to you and your ways. Lord, help me to recognize your leading so that I don't miss it. Please forgive me for the times where I ignore your leading. I want to flee from any temptation.

I pray that this submission helps me to see others the way that you do. I want to continue to know you more and make you known. Lord, be glorified. Amen.