

Changing the Way You Think:

“Gain the Whole World”

Identity * Purpose * **Success** * Beauty * Love * Hope

Mark 8:27-36

²⁷ Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ They told Him, saying, “John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ And He *continued* questioning them: “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and *said* to Him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰ And He warned 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 *from the dead*. ³² And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and *said*, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes, but on man’s.”

³⁴ And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to 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 benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?** ³⁷ For what could a person give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of Me and 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.”

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

Following Me Means Willingly Leaving Everything Behind

“If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”

“Knowing the correct password—saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance— isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—*doing* what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our super-spiritual projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’

²⁴⁻²⁵ “These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

²⁶⁻²⁷ “But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

Matthew 7:21-27

The Message

You Must Stop Thinking and Acting from a Human Perspective

"Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but on man's."

- **Spiritual Warfare** "Get Behind Me Satan"



*"My Christian faith is the underpinning of everything I do...What I do, what I make, what I've made – all of that – is that going to help me on the last day of my life? I made a promise to my mother that I would honor her and honor God. **This is spiritual warfare. So, I'm not looking at it from an earthly perspective.** If you don't have a spiritual anchor you'll be easily blown by the wind and you'll be led to depression...The enemy is the inner me. The Bible says in the last days – I don't know if it's the last days – it's not my place to know – but it says we'll be lovers of ourselves. The number one photograph today is the selfie, 'Oh look at me at the protest.' Me at the campfire.' 'Follow me.' 'Listen to me.' We're living in a time where people are willing to do anything to get followed."*

Denzel Washington

Stop Thinking Subtly You Can Do Both...You'll Lose Everything and Yourself

"What does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"

"This Adulterous and Sinful Generation"

Isaiah 30:9-11

For these are rebellious people, deceitful children, who refuse to pay attention to the Lord's instructions. They tell the seers, "Stop seeing visions!" They tell the prophets, "Don't tell us what is right. Tell us nice, encouraging things. Tell us lies. Forget all this gloom. Get off your narrow path and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

2 Timothy 4:2-4

Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

Jeremiah 6:13-14

From prophets to priests, they are all frauds. They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is no peace.

- Jeremiah was like a doctor delivering bad news to his patient. His diagnosis was that, unless drastic measures were taken, the patient would die. However, the false prophets gave a "second opinion." "Don't listen to Jeremiah," they said; "you are going to be just fine." Instead of radical surgery and a drastic change of lifestyle, the priests and false prophets said a light bandage was all that was needed.

"The one who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."