Like Jesus? Musts Or Maybes?

Tony Mauck · Mark 8:31–38

INTRODUCTION

- What it's coming to mean more and more. And that's a removal of the very essence and central nature of what it means to be a Christian.
- I want to begin this morning with a question. Why must we carry a cross?

1 Must I Bear a Cross for Christ?

Mark 8:31; Mark 8:34–38; Mark 9:31

- The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and after three days rise again.
- If anyone wishes to come after me, Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. You can't have Christianity without this.
- Whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels, that's the one who's ultimately going to have it. They're going to save it.
- If you gained the whole world and yet lose your soul, what have you gained? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

2 I Must Be About My Father's Business

Luke 2:49

- Did you not know that I had to be in my father's house? I had to be about my father's business.
- The King James version says, I must be about my father's business. This was not an option. This is not a hobby.
- It was a necessity. It was burning desire.
- Am I like Jesus? And am I like Jesus in regard to these determinations that he had?

3 What Do Our Spiritual Musts Look Like?

Proverbs 13:15; Matthew 10:42; Galatians 6:2

- Many times, our musts are motivated by the desire to avoid certain unpleasant results or consequences or trouble.
- Our motivation should go beyond just these negative results. Our spiritual must should be motivated by our desire to honor and glorify God.
- Are we indeed convinced, as we should be, that righteousness is a better way to live my life?
- It's the mindset of a disciple that says, I want to assist other people and help them along, bearing one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

4 Jesus' Musts: A Portrait of Determination

Luke 4:42–43; John 4:4; John 9:4–5

- What we're going to see in the example of our Lord is a portrait of determination.
- I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also. I must do this. For I was sent for this purpose.
- He must needs pass through Samaria.
- We must work the works of him who sent me, as long as it is day. Night is coming when no man can work.

5 Why Carry a Cross? Because We're Here to Imitate

1 John 2:6; Matthew 10:22

- Why carry a cross? Because we're here to imitate.
- In the same manner that he walked. Should that not mean that we should be determined in our course as well?
- No theology is of any threat or consequence until it is lived. Our lives will be safely humdrum until we dare to live like our master.
- You will be hated by all on account of my name, but as the one who endures to the end who will be saved.

6 What Things Characterize the Believer's Course?

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 3:16; Luke 14:26–27

- We seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
- I must concern myself with my brothers and their needs. Are those the musts? Is that the determined course that we're on?
- We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. That was our Lord's example.
- It's not identical to everyone else's. But it's a cross nonetheless. And if you do not carry your cross, you cannot be Jesus' disciple.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you follow the king and be like him? Will you be determined as he was? To do not his own will but the Father's will.

MY NOTES