

What is On Your Mind?

September 16, 2018 – Mark 8:31-38

(See Also Luke 9:22-27; Matthew 16:21-28)

“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter. Get behind Me, Satan! He said. You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men. (An Opportunity to Serve Our Savior, and what it means as a Christian) Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of Him when He comes in His Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

What are you thinking about right now? Are you thinking about what you are going to eat later today? Are you thinking about the laundry that is in the washer or dryer at home? Are you thinking about what you will wear tonight? Are you thinking about the pain in your back? Are you thinking about the Bees Buzzing in the Balcony? Are you thinking, boy I hope this sermon doesn’t go too long. Do you have in mind the things of God or the things of man?

Peter thought that he was being nice, and that he was being caring toward Jesus. Jesus had just laid out the fact that it was necessary for HIM to die. Jesus of course would need to die for the sin of the World. Jesus of course, being God Himself, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, knew that it was ordained from all eternity that He would take the sin of the World upon HIMSELF.

We see that Jesus is again instructing HIS disciples clearly and plainly, just as HE instructs us with these words and says:

Vs. 31 – He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again.

But Peter thought that he would be nice. Peter did not really understand the PURPOSE for which Jesus came into this world, and so Peter did what?

Vs. 32 – Peter took JESUS aside and began to rebuke HIM.

Jesus then used this as an opportunity to not only instruct Peter, but also to instruct the other disciples:

Vs. 33 – But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter. Get behind Me, Satan! He said. You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.

Satan was in this instance using Peter as a tool to try to get Jesus to fall into sin. But thankfully Satan was not successful. Our eternal Salvation is still safe. Peter was thinking more about how to have a nice comfortable life here and how to avoid pain and suffering. This of course is normal for us as human beings. We want to avoid pain, we want to avoid suffering, we want to avoid death for as long as possible, and as much as possible.

But Jesus came to seek and to save the Lost. Jesus came to save the sin sick soul from hell. Jesus came to save you and I from the fires of hell and to win the glories of heaven for us. And that is exactly what He did on the cross of Calvary. Jesus says to have in mind the THINGS of GOD, NOT the things of Mankind. Not the things of Human-beings. Jesus then lists what this means to have in MIND THE THINGS of GOD.

Vs. 34 – Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Vs. 35 – For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it.

What are the things of MANKIND?

- Do Not deny yourself your every wish and desire, but jump right into sin. Example – Sleep in, instead of worshipping with fellow Christians.
- Do Not Carry Your Cross. In other words when things are too difficult to obey the Word of God, ignore it.
- Do NOT Follow Christ. Instead when it better suits your life, follow the worldly opinion instead of God's Word.

Jesus continues:

Vs. 36 – What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?

Vs. 37 – Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

How much time and money can you give to earn your salvation?

Jesus has already won your salvation with HIS HOLY precious Blood. And His Blood is God's Blood, because Jesus is God. In your personal life, how many people know that you are a believer in Jesus, outside of your Church Family? Do your co-workers, neighbors and friends know that you put Jesus first in Your Life?

To this Jesus says:

Vs. 38 – If anyone is ashamed of Me and My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of Him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels.

By sitting in the pew and hearing the Word of God, by studying the Word of God at home, by avoiding sin in your daily life, you demonstrate that you value your Lord Jesus. You acknowledge Him and that you are not ashamed to be called a child of God, and so Jesus says that on the LAST Day, He IS NOT Ashamed of you when HE comes with all HIS Holy ONES.

May you continue to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus.

On those days that you do fall, on those days that you are weak, you can go back to the Cross and know that you are God's Forgiven child.

That is why Jesus said to His disciples and to us:

Vs. 31 – that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. AMEN