

## Born to Die

Take Up the Cross – Mark 8:27-37  
December 18, 2016

“...if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.” **-Mark 8:34-35**

### I. WHO AM I?

- There are many opinions as to who Jesus Christ is (Matt. 16:14; 21:23; John 9:29; Acts 26:27-29).
- Jesus gets to the point directly with his disciples. The opinions of others in relation to the person of Christ is irrelevant when we stand before God (Mark 13:9; Rom. 14:10).
- Matthew’s parallel account tells us that Jesus had some good things to say about Peter’s confession, which Mark (or was it Peter?) omits (Matt. 16:13-20).
- We do not see Jesus clearly unless God reveals him to us (Matt. 16:17; Mark 8:22-26; 2 Cor. 4:4-6).
- Jesus tells us who he is. He is the one who was born to die (vss. 31-33; Mark 9:30-32; 10:32-34; Acts 2:22-23).
- When we set our eyes on the things of man rather than the things of God, even common sense concepts can be satanic in their origin (vss. 32-33).

### II. WHO ARE YOU?

- Are you willing to deny yourself?
- Are you willing to take up your cross?
- Do you want to save your life, or lose it for Jesus’ sake?
- Do you want to gain the world? Is it worth your soul?

**\*The Point:** Jesus asks nothing of you that he has not demonstrated himself: He denied himself, took up a cross, and lost his life for the sake of the gospel. He chose not to gain the world.

**KNOW:** The death of Jesus was planned and executed by God the Father and submitted to by God the Son. Jesus was not duped. The goal of Christ followers is also the loss of life (or at least the ownership of it), in order that we too may gain eternal life.

**DO:** Lose your life for Jesus’ sake.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Cross of Christ*, by John R.W. Stott

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please read Mark 8:27-37

1. Who did people say that Jesus was? Why did they say that?
2. Who did Jesus say that he was?
3. Talk about Jesus’ conversation with Peter. Why was he so direct with him, do you think?
4. After the crowd and the disciples heard Jesus speak about taking up the cross, what do you think they may have been asking? Do you think they understood what Jesus was saying to them?
5. What point stands out most to you from this passage?
6. What would it look like in your life if you took Jesus’ words to heart?