Mark Lesson 27 (2023)

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS**

(Mark 8:31-9:1)

**Open it:**

1. In what ways has your life been different from what you expected? How do unrealistic expectations block people from following Christ?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 31-32. How did Jesus speak about what would happen to him? How did Peter respond to Jesus’ statement? How was what Jesus predicted different from what Peter expected?
2. Read verse 33. What did Jesus say to Peter in response to his rebuke? In what way did Peter have in mind the “things of man” as opposed to the “things of God”? What was wrong with Peter’s thinking?
3. Read verse 34. What did Jesus do after rebuking Peter? What does it mean to deny yourself? What does it mean to take up your cross? What does it mean to follow Christ?
4. Read verses 35-38. What paradoxical truth did Jesus mention in following Christ? (35-37) In what way can a person both save his life and lose it at the same time? What does it mean to be ashamed of Christ?
5. Read 9:1. What promise was given to Jesus’ audience?

**Apply it:**

1. What attitude or practice do you need to change in obedience to Christ?