

"Broken for Us" | A Lent Series | Mark 8:31-38 - Pt. 3

"No Suffering, No Glory. Know Suffering, Know Glory" | March 15th, 2026

Review:

This Sunday, we explored one of the most challenging yet transformative teachings that came directly from Jesus himself. In Mark 8:31-38, we confronted a difficult truth: authentic discipleship requires suffering. This isn't a popular message in our comfort-seeking culture, but it's a necessary one. Jesus made it clear that His path to glory led through suffering, and those who follow Him must walk the same road. The divine necessity of Christ's suffering wasn't arbitrary—it was the only way to satisfy God's justice while extending His mercy to sinners like us.

The sermon explored the divine necessity of suffering in both Christ's mission and the Christian life. Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He "must" suffer, die, and rise again—not as one option among many, but as the ordained plan of God to deal with sin and death. This same call to suffer extends to His followers. Being a Christian isn't about adding Jesus to an already comfortable life; it's about dying to self and being made alive in Christ. The safe, self-centered, self-serving life must be put to death so we can experience the abundant life Jesus offers—a life of radical abandonment for His kingdom.

Key Takeaways:

- **Divine Necessity:** Jesus's suffering was not accidental but essential to God's redemptive plan. The word "must" indicates sovereign ordination.
- **Covenantal Context:** All biblical covenants involve sacrifice and bloodshed. Christ's suffering fulfills the ultimate covenant between God and humanity.
- **Counter-Cultural Discipleship:** True Christianity is not about adding Jesus to make life easier, but about dying to self to become alive in Christ.
- **The Cost of Discipleship:** Following Jesus requires putting to death self-centeredness, the desire for safety and comfort, and self-serving ambitions.
- **Eternal Perspective:** Suffering in this life is temporary; the glory to come makes it all worthwhile.

Practical Applications: What This Means For You (Choose One to Try This Week)

Option 1: Deny Self-Centeredness

Identify one area where you consistently put your preferences first. Intentionally choose to serve someone else's interests instead, even when it's inconvenient.

Option 2: Abandon the Safe Life

Step out in faith in one specific way this week. This might mean having a gospel conversation you've been avoiding, serving in a new ministry, or being obedient in an area where you've been holding back.

Option 3: Reject Self-Serving Motives

Do something kind or generous this week that no one else will know about. Examine your heart: Are you seeking God's approval or human recognition?

Understanding the Text:

1. Re-read Mark 8:31-38. What stands out to you most in this passage? Why do you think Peter reacted so strongly to Jesus's prediction of suffering?

2. The pastor pointed out that Jesus used the word "must" when describing His suffering. Why is this word so significant? What does it tell us about God's plan?

3. How does understanding the covenantal structure of Scripture (from Noah through Jesus) help us better understand why Jesus had to suffer?

Questions for Reflection:

1. The sermon challenged the idea that Christianity makes life easier or more comfortable. How have you experienced tension between what our culture promises and what Jesus promises His followers?

2. Which of the three things we must "put to death" is most challenging for you personally:

- Self-centeredness
- The safe life
- Self-serving motives

3. Jesus asks, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" What are some "whole world" things that tempt you to compromise your devotion to Christ?

Memory Verse:

Mark 8:34-35 "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."

Prayer Time:

- For courage to count the cost and follow Jesus wholeheartedly
- For freedom from comfort, safety, and self-centeredness
- For an eternal perspective that makes present suffering bearable