

The Uncomfortable Cross

Mark 8

Uncomfortable Part 2 of 4

Pastor Nate Marsh - September 14, 2025

Mark 8:34-38

Point 1: The Cross Is _____ to Our Faith (v. 34)

Every man, woman, and child who wants to follow Him must reckon with this: discipleship is not comfortable.



A Christianity without a cross is not Christianity—it's consumerism.

Point 2: Following Jesus Means _____ Ourselves (vv. 34–35)

When Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, He's not demolishing our lives—He's renovating them for something better.

Point 3: The Cross Brings _____ Comfort (vv. 36–38)

To the world, the cross may appear to be loss, but in truth, it is the gateway to eternal gain.

APPLICATION POINT:

Write below your response to this question: "Where am I clinging to comfort more than Christ?" Be honest before God, and ask Him to give you the courage to surrender that area.

Questions for Further Study

1. In what area do you find it hardest to deny yourself? Why do you think that is?
2. Why do you think Jesus invited both the *crowd* and the *disciples* to hear this teaching (v. 34)? What does that tell us about the universal call of discipleship?
3. Read Luke 9:23–24 and Matthew 16:24–26 (parallel passages to Mark 8:34–38). What similarities and differences do you notice in how Jesus talks about discipleship?
4. How would you explain Jesus' statement to someone who thinks Christianity is only about rules or restrictions?
5. Can you recall a time when following Jesus felt uncomfortable but later led to growth, joy, or blessing?