

Title: Whosoever Will!

Text: Mark 8:31 - 38 "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. (32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. (33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. (34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Our focus will be on verse 34 "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Introduction: In today's world of religion involving Christianity we have a very confusing world. It is a world of selfishness, and a world of ignorance of God and His word. People do not understand the cross and the significance of it. People have crosses everywhere, homes, business, hills, roadsides, and in places of worship. The cross is a place of punishment, a place of judgment, a place of death. As Christians we do not rally to a cross but to the man who died on that wicked cross which was Christ Jesus the Saviour of all who will ever be saved. Paul said in **Galatians 3:13** "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" meaning the cross is a place for the cursed to death. It is a place where people die for sins and crimes. It is a place where Christ Jesus was put to death for our sins and suffered our eternal punishment. How anyone could glorify such a thing and make it a Christian symbol is beyond me. The glorified thing is the man that

hung on that cross and died, it has nothing to do with the tree that He died on. Let me ask if He were electrocuted in an electric chair would we all be worshipping the electric chair? How about if he were shot with a firing squad would we be worshipping the rifle? Folks, it is not what Christ died on, it is how that He died, and why He died, for our sins. We have been redeemed from the curse of the cross, so let us all free ourselves from that which Christ has freed us from, the curse. Christ said "...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Those who have followed the cross have followed the wrong one, Christ is the one we ought to follow. The word here is "whosoever" it does not mean opportunity, it does not mean a choosing, and it does not mean it is left up to you or optional, it means who-so-ever will, or who will because not all will. The question must be asked "who will"? This is the point we want to look at this morning, who will pick up their cross and follow Christ.

- I. The Lord said "whosoever" will. The question is who is involved in the whosoever?
 - A. We read in **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We see two great errors by people in this scripture.
 - B. The First error is, that God loved everyone in the world. God has never said He loves every person in the world.
 1. God said in **Psalms 5:5** "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity." – It is impossible for The Eternal God to change; therefore, He cannot change His love. He is immutable and changes not.
 2. **Romans 9:13** "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Does God ever say He loved Esau? No!
 3. If God loved every soul in the earth then He could never have hated one, not even Esau. Not even the

wicked in Psalms 5:5

C. Secondly, that whosoever includes all who will choose to follow Christ.

1. This is the second myth, that lost sinners or these wicked choose to follow Christ, but I ask where are we told to choose?
2. The word whosoever means whoever will. It is a fact that the world in general will not follow Christ, they will not seek salvation, and they will never choose to change. Romans 3 Therefore, it is not within people's ability to chose good.
3. The whosoever are those "who will" which are those who have been changed by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:14

II. Whosoever will, are those that deny oneself for Christ. V. 34 "...let him deny himself..."

- A. There is absolutely one thing man will never do of themself, and that is to deny themselves, they are to prideful. This is why they believe salvation is a choice, or that God cannot change their will.
- B. To deny oneself means to put God before self as Christ did, thinking of others before self.
- C. **Titus 1:16** "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." – By denying God's power in salvation.
- D. One of the hardest things to do for people, is to deny oneself. Those that believe in self-salvation have never been convicted of the Holy Spirit, and is not one of the "whosoever will"

III. Whosoever means, suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ. V. 34 "...and take up his cross..." What is your cross?

- A. People believe being a Christian is all roses and beauty, but God promise that every Christian shall suffer persecution. **2 Timothy 3:12**

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- B. For “the whosoever will” Christians means following the persecution of Jesus Christ, meaning hard times, troubled times, heartaches, and even death. As Christ suffered so shall we.
- C. The believers cross is many things, and whatever your cross is, bear it and follow Christ.

IV. Whosoever means to follow Christ. V. 34 “...and follow me.”

- A. Many who are called Christians do not desire to follow Christ, because following Christ means to please God before self. Jesus said, **John 4:34** “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”
- B. Remember when Jesus made us this great promise when He said? **Matthew 4:19** “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- C. Following me means to do as I command because I am God. The word “Christian” means to be Christ like, are we? Are we following Christ, being like Him in this wicked world?

V. Conclusion

- A. There is a song which concludes this message most wonderfully; and it says "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey. (and the refrain goes: Trust and obey, for there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."
- B. The whosoever will trust and follow Jesus Christ and obey regardless of the cost.