

*"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"*

**A. Intro:** *"In the light of the cross"*

**B. Sermon in a Sentence:**

*Embrace the cross or suffer eternal loss.*

**C. Context of Today's Question**

Jesus has just rebuked spiritually myopic Peter and the rest of the disciples for cooperating with Satan's plan to thwart the main act of Jesus' mission – his atoning death for us. Jesus then points to the relationship between the Gospel and the Cross, calling us to soberly receive Him and imitate His sacrifice.

**D. MARK 8:33-38** (ESV)

<sup>33</sup> But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." <sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

**E. Truths to Take to Heart**

1. Jesus' march to the cross opens the door to Life and real discipleship.
2. Satan often disguises his temptations within good intentions.
3. Our discipleship under Jesus includes our own cross to carry.
4. None of us has enough resources to buy our way out of hell.
5. Hell begins when we cover our faces in denial of Jesus.

**F. Small Group or Individual Study Questions**

1. What was one of the worst pieces of advice you've given to someone else?
2. How do humans try to save their lives apart from the cross? Why do these things exert such influence over us?
3. A Roman cross was a torturous and shaming way to die. What has been a grueling (and glorious) part of your discipleship with Jesus? How has God given you the grace to endure it?
4. What conditions tempt you to hide your testimony of Jesus' love and grace? How can you walk in His strength to overcome these challenges?
5. Pray for the path of the cross to be embraced by all you know who love Jesus.

