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## "The Way of the King"

Mark 8:31-35

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### Background

This Lenten season, we've spent our time together reflecting on several of Jesus' parables. These parables have reminded us of the values, the perspectives, the attitudes, the *way* of the Kingdom of God. This week - Holy Week - we reflect on how the way of the Kingdom was embodied in the way of its king, Jesus Christ. Join us this Easter Sunday as we close our series in the parables and celebrate the way - and the destination - of the King!

### Sermon Text: *Mark 8:31-35 (NIV)*

*<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.*

*<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." <sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.*

### Discussion Questions

## 1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

## 2. Sunday Questions:

1. Do you have “I told you so” moments in your life? Does Jesus’ “I told you so” moment in history give you a new perspective of your moment?
2. Peter rebukes Jesus’ teaching of His death. What are Peter and disciples’ concerns about what Jesus taught of His death? Do we have similar concerns?
3. “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it. but whoever loses their life for me and for gospel will save it.” What does this saying of Jesus mean to us, and how could we apply this principle to our own life?
4. Paul in chapter two of his Letter to the Philippians: “[Christ Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something [to be grasped.]” Jesus trusted God by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in the human likeness. His death and resurrection are the essence of Easter story. What can we learn from Jesus’ example?
5. “The Way of Jesus the King: It is not like the way of this world’s kings and kingdoms:  
“The Way of the King does not seek political victories but the slow and often invisible transformation of the heart;  
“The Way of the King does not fear this world but fearlessly grows and thrives in its midst;  
“The Way of the King does not separate from this world but turns aside to meet its needs, even if it costs something;  
“The Way of the King does not depend on human power to advance but witnesses to and depends on God's power alone;  
“The Way of the King does not give others only what they deserve but grants forgiveness and shows mercy;  
“The Way of the King does not condemn the world for its sins but is willing to die for its healing and redemption.  
“The Way of the King is, in the eyes of this world, foolish and misguided – *it’s too ineffective, too naïve, too weak* in all its faith in God and empathy for neighbor. But the Resurrection of Jesus proves that His Way is the only *truly effective, truly wise, truly powerful* way to live, the only Way that leads to eternal Life. To this

world, the Way of the King is death; to us and to God, it is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Will you follow Jesus on His way? Give specific example of how you follow Jesus' way.