

AND LOSE HIS SOUL

MARK 8:35-36 • TV118A

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Mark 8:35-36

“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. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

If you would like to follow along with me while I preach the message today, then take your Bible and turn please to the book of **Mark the 8th chapter**.

I’m going to be speaking on this subject: **“AND LOSE HIS SOUL”**

That’s the title and the Scripture’s found in **Mark chapter 8:35 and 36**, and our Lord said:
“Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel’s, the same shall save it: For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?”

Now, unfortunately, and you and I both know this is true; we are living in a world where men have become almost totally absorbed with material things. We live in an age of material progress and spiritual famine.

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Most people today have more materially than they have ever had in all their lives. But, we will have to confess; we have less spiritually now than we've had in all our lives. Almost everything with which we are associated with is geared to the comfort and care of the body. You know this is true. There is very little concern is given to the soul.

Our Lord said there are three questions that dominate the thinking of a heathen, a pagan: "*What shall I eat? What shall I drink? And wherewith all, shall I be clothed?*" He said, "*These things are the things that the heathen seek.*"

These things are the things that the heathen think about. Three things dominate their thinking: the care, the concern, and the comfort for this body; what am I going to eat, what I am going to drink, and what I am going to wear?

He tells us: "*To seek first the kingdom of God, (to give ourselves to seeking the kingdom of God) and all of these other things will be added unto us.*" But, we have turned that around and we are seeking the material possessions. We are seeking the comfort of this body and we have neglected the welfare of our souls.

Unfortunately, the churches and religion are caught up in this craze for materialism. Today, millions of dollars are spent every year on spacious, magnificent, elaborate buildings, and religious programs and so little concern is giving to what is preached from the average pulpit. You know it's so and I know it's so.

This is the day of great finances in religion and very little true faith. This is the day of much promotion and little Holy Spirit power. This is a day of high-powered programs and very little personal prayer.

This is a day of much talented entertainment and this is also the day of dead sermons. This is the day of great knowledge of the sciences and very little knowledge of God almighty.

We are hearing today what they call "the health and wealth Gospel" and this has to do with what I eat and what I drink and what I wear and the health and comfort of my body, not my soul.

My friend; this body is not all. Really, this body is a very small part of me. When this body dies I live on. The Scripture says: "*The body returns to the dust and the soul to God who gave it.*"

One of these days before very long the doctor will make his last visit to my room. One of these days before very long I will draw my last breath and my eyelids will close in death.

One of these days the mortician will do what he can for this body to preserve it for a little while, just long enough for some folks to gather together and express their sympathy and their sorrow, long enough for the minister to say a few words over my body, long enough for the coffin lid to be bolted down to await the resurrection, long enough for the sod to be prepared and the grass to be planted over my flesh.

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But, this is not all; it's not all over, it's not all over at all; my soul lives on. *"The body returns to the dust from which it came but the soul to God who gave it."*

What shall it profit a man if he has good health? What shall it profit a man if he has great wealth? What shall it profit a man if he has everything the world can possibly afford and loses his soul?

I can't think of anything as horrible as this; to stand at the Judgment after having been a successful man, a famous person, one of great honor and a claim on this earth, and hear the Lord, who is the Judge of all men say: *"I don't know you."*

But Lord, everybody knew me in my town: *"but, I don't know you."* But Lord; I was known far and near. *"I don't know you; depart from me ye that work iniquity."*

A man can lose his soul. We are all going to lose our bodies; that's for sure: *"It's appointed unto men once to die"* but I don't want to lose my soul. The Scripture says: *"I can lose my soul."* God says so.

Now, you are listening to a preacher this morning who believes the Word of God and I see no reason to explain it away. I see no reason to explain away the Word of God to please men.

I see no reason to apologize for what God says in his Word! *"Let God be true and every man a liar."* And God says, *"A man can lose his soul"* and I believe it; I believe God's Word.

Over in **Jeremiah chapter 23:28** there's an interesting Scripture. The Lord has been rebuking the false preachers and false prophets for preaching everything but the Bible. He says: *"They don't preach my word; they preach lies."*

Then, in **Jeremiah 23:28** he says: *"The preacher that hath a dream; let him tell his dream but the preacher that hath my word; let him speak my word faithfully."*

I have no dreams to tell you. I have no visions to tell you. I have no special revelations to reveal to you but I have a Book written by the Holy Spirit of God and in it God says: *"A man can lose his soul."*

In fact the Lord says: *"Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it,"* and his life is his soul. *"Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it."* What does that mean? What's our Lord saying there: *"whosoever shall save his life shall lose it?"*

Here's what he means; by denying Christ, by denying the Gospel, this man can save himself from embarrassment. By denying the truth, by denying the Gospel, by denying Christ, he can save himself from some persecution.

He can save himself from some certain shame and ridicule. He can save some of his earthly connections and he can pacify his family. He can get along with natural men. He can really save

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himself from suffering any of this embarrassment, ridicule, and persecution for the Gospel's sake.

He can profit financially. He can profit materially by compromise, by dishonesty, by worldliness, by denying Christ. He can save himself some of these difficulties but in doing so, he loses his most prized possession; he loses his only possession, his soul.

And our Lord goes on and says: *“Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and for the gospel, the same shall save it”* in other words, whatever it costs, this man's determined to walk with Christ. Whatever it costs, this man is determined to confess His name. Whatever it costs this man is determined to walk with His people and be identified with Christ.

If it costs him business connections, if it costs him money, if it costs him possessions, if it costs him persecution or whatever; he's willing, yea, to lay down his life for Christ's sake.

If it costs him his family and sometimes our Lord said: *“A man's enemy shall be those of his own household.”* But, he's not going to save his life; he's going to lose his life for the Gospel's sake and for Christ's sake.

And the Lord says, in losing his life, in crucifying himself, he gains his soul, he gains his life. *“Whosoever shall gain and save his life (preserve it from all of these difficulties), he will lose his soul but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it.”*

Now, he didn't say: *“Whosoever shall lose his life, defending the freedom of his country, (which is a good thing) or whosoever shall lose his life dying for a good cause or a humanitarian cause, whosoever shall give his life going to Africa to bind up men's wounds.”* He says: *“Whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and for the gospel shall save it, (shall gain it).”*

“What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world (the honor and fame and applause and possessions of this world) and loses his soul?” What has he gained? Well, he has lost everything.

What are some of the ways that men lose their souls? I want us to look at this for a few moments. Will you think with me? I'm going to give you four or five common ways whereby men lose their souls.

First of all: A man may lose his soul by living a life of open rebellion against God, open and profane sin and blasphemy!

That's a good way to lose your soul. In other words, in **Ephesians chapter 5:5** Paul says: *“For we know that no whoremonger, no unclean person, no covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of God; because of these things the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”*

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My friend, if you choose the way of blaspheme, if you choose the way of drunkenness and the way of dishonesty, if you choose the way of profanity and lying and stealing, if you choose the company of these people then you will share their company in the Judgment.

And you will share their company unto the wrath and condemnation of almighty God. That's true! No man is going to inherit the kingdom of God who lives in rebellion, open sin and rebellions against almighty God.

So, that's certain, that's sure. That's the way to lose your soul, just leave it in sin and rebellion against a Holy God. Pharaoh said; "*Who is the Lord that I should serve him?*"

Well, He is God, and you are His creature and you are one of His subjects in His kingdom and you owe Him submission and worship and praise. But, you go on living as a traitor to God, a rebel against God, and you will lose your soul.

But, here's another way that men lose their souls:

Secondly: A man may lose his soul by ignoring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and ignoring the church of the Lord Jesus Christ

Now, listen to the Scripture; our Lord said: "*Verily, verily, I say unto you; he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life.*" Our God is a God of means and He has chosen by the foolishness of preaching, (not the preaching of foolishness, not the preaching of entertainment) but the foolishness of preaching.

Preaching is not foolishness but foolish men call it foolishness. Natural men call it foolishness. "*The preaching of the gospel is to them who are perishing, foolishness, (sheer nonsense, idol talk). But our Lord hath chosen by preaching to save them that believe.*"

He said: "*He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me.*" And again, Paul wrote in Romans, "*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*" David said, "*I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord.*"

Now, our God is a God of means and that is shown all the way through the Bible. God has ordained certain means by which His people come to know Him.

He has ordained certain means by which He is revealed to a man's heart. He has ordained certain means by which men worship Him and serve Him. Ignore these means and you will miss the knowledge of God.

Listen to this: In the Old Testament there were prophets sent of God. "*God in sundry times and in divers manner's spake to our fathers, (how, by the prophets, not by the angels, not by the stars, not by the clouds, and not by the whistling of the wind through the trees) but he spake to them by the prophets.*"

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These prophets were the means of God to reveal Himself to those who would listen to them. In the Old Testament there were prophets and there was a Tabernacle where God met men and men met God. There were sacrifices.

In the Old Testament there was a Mercy Seat and God gave these means to reveal Himself and His redemption in His salvation, in His purpose and grace. And to ignore these means was to miss God.

To ignore these means meant judgment. If a man did not come with a proper sacrifice at the proper time to the proper temple or tabernacle then he brought upon himself the wrath of God. You couldn't ignore the means. You couldn't do it the way you wanted to do it; you did it the way God decreed for it to be done.

Our God is a God of means. He's a God of mercy but that mercy is revealed by the means of His grace.

Now, in the New Testament, we have a prophet; that prophet is Christ our Lord. *"God who at sundry time and in divers manner's spake to our fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son,"* The Father said; *"This is my Son, hear him;"* God had spoken.

We have a tabernacle; Christ is that tabernacle. We have sacrifices; His blood is that sacrifice. *"This is my body broken for you,"* He said. *"This is my blood which was shed for the remission of your sin."*

And we have a Mercy Seat and that Mercy Seat is in the presence of God. *"Christ has entered once into the holy place not made with hands which is a figure, (a pattern, a picture) of the true, but into the presence of God:*

"Not with the blood of animals but with his own precious blood, (not with many sacrifices), but with one offering by which he has perfected forever them that are sanctified."

Now, you can't ignore these means and expect to know God, any more than the men and women of the Old Testament could ignore the types and the shadows and the ceremonies and the pictures and not incur God's wrath.

David said: *"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked"* (or be the king in the tents of wickedness). Christ said, *"I'll build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Again Paul wrote in **Ephesians**: *"Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."*

My friend, I say this to you; you can't ignore God's Prophet. You can't ignore God's Priest. You can't ignore God's Son. You can't ignore God's Word. You can't ignore God's preacher. You can't ignore God's church because these are means of grace.

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They are not the end in themselves. You can't make a God out of the preacher or God out of the church. You can't find salvation in the ordinance but these things are the means of grace and you can't ignore them and walk with Christ.

So, man can lose his soul by saying "I won't have that way, I won't go that way; I'm going my own way. I will look at the stars and find my knowledge of God." Well, you will look until Doomsday and the stars are not going to say anything to you. The stars will let you think what you want to think but God's Word won't let you think what you want to think.

God's Word makes you subject your thoughts to His thoughts and your ways to His way. God said, "*Two cannot walk together except they be agreed.*" This is God's way, and it will be your way if you walk with God.

And Christ said: "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.*" Don't lose your soul by ignoring God's Word and ignoring God's Gospel and ignoring God's Son.

Thirdly: Another way that man can lose their souls; a man may lose his soul by following false preachers and by adopting a false religion!

Somebody said: "It doesn't matter what you believe just so you are sincere." I've never found that in God's Word. I have found rather that it does matter what you believe. He tells us to "*beware of false prophets, they will come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*" He tells us: "*If the blind lead the blind, they are going to fall into the ditch.*" If blind people follow blind preachers they are both going to perish in the same pit.

Again the Lord says: "*You compass* (He was talking to these religious men of His day, and they were in the ministry out of covetousness and greed and all of these things) *sea and land to make one proselyte for your religion and after you have made him, he's two-fold more the child of hell than you are.*"

We are so concerned with making proselytes. We are so concerned with making converts. We are so concerned with turning people to our way of thinking. Our Lord said: "*When you have done this; he's two-fold more the child of hell* (than the pattern itself)."

My friend, a man can lose his soul by following a false preacher. "*Try the spirits whether they be of God.*" How shall I try the spirits preacher? Well, try them by the Word of God; read the Scriptures.

Any message that does not give God all the glory and Christ all the praise for redemption, I guarantee you it's not of God because the Scripture says: "*Of him are you in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption that as it is written: he that glorieth; let him glory in the Lord.*" Paul said, "*God forbid, that I should glory in anything except the cross of Jesus Christ.*"

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And I fear that multitudes today are drugging their souls on ceremonies, customs, traditions and false doctrines which never came from God, which God did not teach. *“They are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.”*

“Abstain from this meat. Walk a certain way on this day. Do the best you can. Keep this law. Join this denomination.” The Scripture says: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved”*

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God hath raised him from the dead; thou shalt be saved.”

All right, a man can lose his soul by following a false prophet and by adopting a false profession or religion.

Fourthly: A man can lose his soul by making a false profession of faith!

I see the multitudes flooding the church aisles and the tent aisles and the auditorium aisles and the stadium aisles, going down to the front to make a profession of religion. My friend; let me warn you.

A confession of Christ on your lips means nothing if Christ does not live in your heart. Now, I promise you that. You can say what you want to with your lips, but if Christ does not reign in your hearts, if the reality of regeneration and the reality of conversion and the reality of the living God is not yours by experience in your heart, you can walk down an aisle ten thousand times and still be lost.

I'll tell you this too; water will profit you nothing if you've not been baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit. And your name on a church roll book will do you no good; it will mean nothing unless your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life by a sovereign God.

So, you can make your professions of faith, but oh I cry out against the danger of pulling professions out of people who do not really know God.

Pressure, Pressure, pressure, it's like high pressure salesmen selling books or insurance or something else, coming into your home and convincing you that you ought to do this and convincing you that you ought to do that. Then when they leave, you have done it and you've got no experience and no joy and no peace and no understanding and no rest.

I'll tell you if we'll just preach the Gospel and leave the Holy Spirit to do the work of regeneration and the work of conviction and the work of conversion and let men come to us and tell us what God has done for them.

It's not our responsibility to go to them and tell them what God has done. If God has done something for them, they will tell us. They will let somebody know about it.

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My friend; I say this: “*What shall it profit a man if he gain ten thousand worlds and lose his soul?*” The value of things will vastly change one day for every one of you.

The day cometh when money and banknotes and bonds will be worth no more than wastepaper blowing down a city street. The day will come when diamonds and gold and silver will be like dust in the street.

The day cometh when houses and lands and farms will be as worthless as a child’s worn out toy. The day will come when fame and honor and claim and prestige and influence of this world will be no more than faded flowers and withered grass.

The day will come when men will come and trade all they have and all they are and all they know for one grain of faith, for one Gospel sermon, for one hour of prayer. But that day they will find out the value of a human soul.

I close with this comment; a man may lose his soul but I will tell you this: If I had to end this sermon on that tragic note, I would be very despondent. But, I say this to you: a man’s soul can be saved. That’s good news isn’t it? A man’s soul can be saved.

A man told me this afternoon, he said: “When I heard that for the first time that there was a possibility that all my sins could be forgiven, that all my guilt and shame and sin and iniquity could be pardoned and put away, that God would be reconciled to me, and I could become a child of God and the Son of God.”

He said, “It was too good to be true. I was thrilled in my soul and I began to seek that way. I began to look for that justification and that pardon and by God’s grace one day it was revealed to me by the Holy Spirit.”

A man’s soul can be saved and do you know why I say that?

First of all: Because Christ died!

That’s how I know that a man can be saved. Christ Jesus died. It says in 1 Peter 3:18: “*Christ has suffered for sins,*” somebody’s sins; somebody is going to be saved. God almighty is going to save somebody.

Christ is going to have a people. God’s already purposed it. God’s already decreed it. God almighty has already ordained that Christ is going to have a people. Heaven is going to be populated.

There are going to be some folks up there singing his praises:

**“Unto him who loved us
And washed us from our sins
In his own precious blood.”**

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“He suffered for sin, the just for the unjust that he might bring us (somebody) to God.” So, I know that a man’s soul can be saved.

First of all: Because Christ died!

And I know for who He died; *“He died for sinners of whom I’m chief.”* He died for the ungodly. He died not for the righteous but for the unrighteous. He died not for those who are strong but those who are weak, those who are without strength, without God, without hope, at their wit’s end. He died for them.

Secondly: I know that souls can be saved not only because Christ died but because Christ lives; He didn’t stay dead!

Every messiah and religious leader and prophet of old who claimed to be what he wasn’t is dead and in his grave. But nobody is in the grave where Christ slept for three days and three nights because that grave is empty.

The stone was rolled away and He arose. The angel said to the women who came to the tomb on that Sunday morning: *“Why seek ye the living among the dead? He’s not here; he’s risen. Christ is risen.”*

Well, where is He preacher? This one, who died for sinners, this man Christ Jesus, has ascended to heaven and He’s seated in the most respected, prominent, honored place there is, on God’s right hand. What’s He doing? He’s interceding for all who believe.

I know that sinners can be saved and souls can be saved because God promised it in his Word. He said: *“Come unto me and I will give you rest.”* He said: *“Ho everyone that thirsteth; come to me and drink.”*

He said: *“Ho everyone that is laboring and heavy laden; come to me and I will give you rest.”* And God cannot lie. He has given us the promise of His blessed Word that He will give eternal life to all who believe!