

Intro

Before start

- How many say you are disciple of Jesus, follower of Jesus? Raise hand!

Packer or Pitcher. Pam vs. me. Life in PNG

Jesus, the Enigma of All Time (Baffling)

- Came to seek & to save,
 - Turned some off,
 - Turned many against self,
 - But never turned them away (they chose it of themselves)
 - Luke 9:57-62 – Foxes / Dead bury / Put hand → Don't know response.
 - Mar 10:17-23 – RYR - Lack one thing → saddened, went away grieving
 - Joh 6:60-66 – Hard saying. Who can hear it? → many went back, no walk

Context

Jesus doing major traveling, & major work!

Mark 8:1-2 (Don't read)

- Happened again! Another large crowd....
- But had compassion.
- Root cause for hard things said

Mar 8:27-29 "You are the Christ"

- Peter technically right, but wrong expectations
- Based on Isaiah 9:6-7
 - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: & the **government** shall be upon his shoulder: & his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government & peace there shall be no end....**

Mark 8:31-32 (Read)

Mark 8:33 (Read)

- Like as if, "... You don't care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important." (ERV)
- On the side of Satan

Commented [PVDD1]: ◦Jesus could have done that feeding in so many ways.
 ◦Why the way he did?
 ▪Could have had auto-nourishment, distribution, collection, etc.
 ◦& why re-collect?
 ▪There's more where that came from, so why not let the birds finish it off?
 ▪7 baskets!
 ◦Wants to use us! Wants there to be no waste, but worship (cf. Mary's spikenard)

Mark 8:34 (Read)

Seeing Disciples, rebuked Peter

Called crowd – EVERYONE for further instruction

- Whosoever !!
- Follow me – I want to follow him!
 - He went into heaven,
 - He went to prepare place for us – that where I am, there you may be also
- Follow me: Pet, Andr, Jam, John, Phlp, Mat, 2 noname, RYR, Everyone, Sheep

Deny Self, take up cross

- Not nice. At all.
- Common place in Jesus' day. Carrying cross, what mean?

Mark 8:35-38 (Read) OUCH! But Compassion

V.38 first – Not sure mean, but don't want Jesus ashamed of me. Not good

Mark 8:35-37 (Read again)

Life is not a game.

- Serious / NO CTRL Z / NO Undo.
- What we do now counts for eternity.
- Only what we do now for eternity, counts.
- Jesus dead serious about this

Other places (Mat 10:37; Luk 14:26)

- If love father, mother, etc. even own life more than me...
- It is the First Commandment: No other gods before Me!

Packer vs. Pitcher – Save life, or Lose if for Jesus' sake?

Someone has said,

- "According to Jesus the only real choice we have is HOW we give our lives up. We can try to save them ourselves & lose them, or we can give them up for his sake & the gospel's & save them" (IVPNTC on Mar_8:35).

Commented [PVDD2]: ◦Peter & andrew - [Mat 4:18-20](#);
 ◦Peter - [Joh 21:19-22](#);
 ◦James & John (implied) - [Mat 4:21-22](#);
 ◦Phillip - [Joh 1:43](#);
 ◦Unnamed "disciples" - [Mat 8:21-22](#); [Luk 9:59-60](#); [Luk 9:61-62](#);
 ◦Matthew - [Mat 9:9](#); [Mar 2:14](#); [Luk 5:27](#);
 ◦Rich young ruler - [Mat 19:21-22](#); [Mar 10:21](#); [Luk 18:22](#);
 ◦Anyone - [Mat 16:24](#); [Mar 8:34](#); [Luk 9:23](#); [Joh 12:26](#);
 ◦Descriptive of his sheep - [Joh 10:27](#);

Commented [PVDD3]: •"To follow [Jesus] is to say no to oneself, not by practicing asceticisms or developing low self-esteem, but by placing the will of God above one's own feelings, desires & urges" (JNTC on Mat 16:24)

Young man in tribe - I want to give my Peanut to Jesus!

John G Paton & wife set sail to New Hebrides, in 1858

- Respected elder chided "The cannibals will eat you!"
- Paton: "Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, & your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live & die serving & honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms; & in the Great Day my Resurrection body will rise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen redeemer."

What about you? ** 10 volunteers – stand in line **

Not talking about where, but what direction. Where is your heart pointed?

Here in America:

- for every 10 people unsaved, one is saved
- ~ 19 feet, 18.7

60% of world's pop – unreached people groups.

- 4.5 Billion! People
- Those that are making effort to reach them very few
- For that same 1 person to reach them, he'd have to reach 100,000
- Line would be 35.4 miles!
 - Same as going from **Life Bible to past Six Flags over GA.**
- To count 100,000 1 per second, ~ 28 hours = 1 day 3 hours, 46 min, 40 sec.

SAD LIST (long roll of people groups without the Scriptures in their language, vs. 400+ translations in English!)

Over course of time together, (1 hour)

- **6,316** people in world **died**
- **60%** = **3,790 die** without chance to know the gospel (nearly pop. of Jasper)

Commented [PVDD4]: (<https://www.desiringgod.org/blogs/john-g-paton>, <http://www.thecapranica.com/index.php/2013/09/11/cap-quotes-sufferings-john-g-paton/>)

Jesus says, Seek first the Kingdom of God...

Are we asking selves,

- How can I do more for the kingdom?
- **Not**, how can I maintain my comfortable lifestyle & do more?
- Remember, Jesus talking @ death here, suffering, no fun, pain, carrying cross

Mat 6 – Is your life not more than food clothing etc.?

- Joh 6:27 NKJV) “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life....”

We sang: All that I am I place into your loving hands... REALLY?

Heard some hard things from Mouth of Jesus today

- He has said them out of compassion
- b/c there are no CTRL Z's in life
- Wants our life to count for eternity
 - Not “dust bunnies” for reward in heaven

I want to ask again as I started out today,

- How many here today would say – a disciple of Jesus, a follower of Jesus?
- All out for kingdom?
- Counting the cost?
- What's **least I can live on** to advance kingdom most?
- How can I invest the most, my time, talents, & treasure, my life, my peanut?

Radical on table in back (ask if interested)

Carrying a cross was a public thing.

Are you

- Pack away life, hanging on to everything, “savoring the things of men”?
- Pitch it all, give your life away, “savoring the things of God”