

February 25, 2018

Lose Your Life or Save It?

**MARK 8:31—38/8:33—41 IV**

*Before the service, arrange offering baskets in the front of the worship space. People will be invited to bring their offerings forward during the Disciples' Generous Response.*

Silent Meditation Thought:

The promises of God in Jesus Christ are sure—that by the Holy Spirit we will be given grace to do the things we have been asked: courage in the struggle for justice, passion for peace in the midst of violence, forgiveness of our sin, stewardship in place of materialism, healing of body and spirit where there is hurt, and eternal life in the face of death.

—*Sharing in Community of Christ*, 3rd ed., (Herald Publishing House, 2012), 23.

Prelude

Hymn of Praise: "The God of Abraham Praise" CCS 94

Welcome/Good News/Prayer Requests

Call to Community Worship:

God, those who seek you will give you praise. All the ends of the earth will remember and return to you; and all the families of the nations shall bow down to you. For yours is the kingdom. You rule over the nations. —Psalm 22:26–28, adapted

\* Hymn: "A Mother Lined a Basket" CCS 239

\* Invocation

\* Response

Prayer for Peace

*Light the peace candle.*

Prayer: God of compassion, help us to see your hidden face in every soul we meet today. Help us to be your living peace—your hands, your feet, your gentle voice that speaks release to all who seek him. We see those who walk the streets in ragged clothes, who sit beside us on the bus, who laugh and run in children's shoes, and we yearn to be your hands and feet. They are old and young; stout and thin. They are everywhere that life begins and ends.

Help us to see your hidden face in every soul we meet today. Help us to be your living peace.

Amen

—Danny A. Belrose, *Vulnerable to Grace*, (Herald Publishing House, 2008), 27, adapted.

Congregational Hymn of Confession: "Creator of Sunrises" CCS 207

Disciples Generous Respons:

Focus Moment:

*For this week, place two coin banks in a shopping bag. Introduce the objects in the shopping bag in your own words using these ideas:*

There is an item in the bag that represents something none of us can do without, but which might become our focus to the exclusion of being generous in many ways. What do you think it might be?

*Solicit a few responses. If someone correctly guesses "money" or something similar, remove one of the coin banks and hold it up. If not, identify it and hold it up. Suggest that during Lent we need to remember Jesus said that anyone who would follow him would need to be totally committed. That means our primary focus is on Jesus and not on storing up wealth or other "things" for ourselves that take away our focus on living our lives for Jesus' sake. Suggest that putting one coin bank in the basket available for donations to the food bank is a symbol of turning away from the temptation of material things. The other coin bank is placed on the worship setting, as a reminder that wealth can be a blessing when shared. Put one bank in the storage bin and add the other to the worship setting.*

*Now invite the congregational members to come forward and place their offerings and food items in the baskets during the ministry of music "When We Are Tested." Have an usher ready to take a basket to attendees with mobility challenges.*

Music Ministry: "When We Are Tested" CCS 453 (solo)

Offertory Prayer

Sermon: Based on Mark 8:31–38/8:33–41 IV

\* Hymn of Commitment: "Called by Christ to Love Each Other" CCS 577

\* Benediction

\* Instrumental Response

Postlude