

Greater Decatur Churches
Discussion Questions – Lent Week Two
You Only Have To Die: The Death of Knowing Best

Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

Questions

1. We remember Christian martyrs like Martin Luther King, Jr, Oscar Romero, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Center for the Study of Global Christianity of Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary estimates that 100,000 Christians are killed each year because of their faith. And yet we still equate worldly success with spiritual faithfulness. Why do you think this is?
2. Think of a time in your life when you have experienced suffering. How did you understand that suffering? Are there questions you asked of God during that suffering? As you feel comfortable, talk about how you dealt with that suffering. Are there questions you still have about suffering?
3. If, like Peter, we don’t always know best, what is the litmus test for truth? How do we tell the difference between the surprising Spirit of God and our own preferences?