



Easter

S A T / S U N
M A R C H 2 6 + 2 7

Jim Johnson

The Truth About Death & Life

Mark 8:31-32

A _____ **truth**

Mark 8:32-33

An _____ **response**

Mark 8:34-38

A _____ **invitation**

OUR TIME WITH GOD

For the full reading plan, go to SPCC.TV/Church Study & Resources

LAST WEEK	3/21-3/27		
MONDAY:	2 CHRONICLES 15	MATTHEW 17:1-13	PROVERBS 13:19-21
TUESDAY:	1 KINGS 16	MATTHEW 17:14-27	PROVERBS 13:22-24
WEDNESDAY:	2 CHRONICLES 16	MARK 9:1-29	PROVERBS 13:25-27
THURSDAY:	2 CHRONICLES 17	MARK 9:30-50	PROVERBS 13:28-31
FRIDAY:	1 KINGS 17	LUKE 9:28-62	PROVERBS 14:1-3
SATURDAY:	1 KINGS 18	MATTHEW 18:1-14	PROVERBS 14:4-6
SUNDAY:	1 KINGS 19	MATTHEW 18:15-35	PROVERBS 14:7-9

3 QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE EACH DAY:

1. What is the passage saying?
2. Does the passage tell you something about God or about yourself?
3. Is there something Jesus is reminding you of regarding who He is or who you are in Christ? How is He inviting you to respond to His word to you today?

REFLECTING ON YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time listening and responding to Jesus' voice this week. As you journaled those conversations with Him, is there one thing in particular that you felt Him speaking to you about?

SHARING WITH YOUR GROUP:

2. Life Group leader, pick one person in your group this week to share their answer to question number one.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION:

3. What did God impress on your heart through this year's Easter service?

MY PERSPECTIVE:

4. Imagine yourself in the disciple's shoes. How might you have reacted when Jesus told you He would be killed and would rise again?

DIGGING DEEPER:

5. Read the following verses: Romans 3:23-26; Isaiah 53:6; John 14:6. Was it necessary that Jesus die in order for God to forgive our sins? Why or why not?

LOOKING DEEPER:

Jesus stipulated that those who wish to follow Him must be prepared to shift the center of gravity in their lives from a concern for self to reckless abandon to the will of God. The central thought in self-denial is a disavowing of any claim that may be urged by the self, a sustained willingness to say 'No' to oneself in order to be able to say 'Yes' to God. This involves a radical denunciation of all self-idolatry and of every attempt to establish one's own life in accordance with the dictates of the self. This demand is reinforced and intensified by the horrifying image of a death march. Bearing the cross was not a Jewish metaphor, and Jesus' statement must have sounded repugnant to the crowd and the disciples alike. The saying evokes the picture of a condemned man going out to die who is forced to carry on his back the cross-beam upon which he is to be nailed at the place of execution. By the time Mark prepared his Gospel this had become cruel reality, both for Jesus and the Church. Jesus' words were a sober caution that the commitment for which He asked permitted no turning back, and if necessary, a willingness to submit to the cross in pursuance of the will of God...The call to follow Jesus...provides a vivid reminder that suffering with the Messiah is the condition of glorification with Him (Romans 8:17). – William Lane, NICNT, Mark

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (Mark 8:35)

6. Read Luke 9:23-26 & 1 Peter 4:12-19. Jesus told Peter that he was setting his mind on the "things of man" versus the things of God. Describe the contrast between the world's perspective on self-denial for Christ and God's perspective.

MY RESPONSE:

...let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23)

7. The call to follow Jesus involves both a saving moment of surrender to Jesus and a daily dying to self. Read Romans 6:11-14. Describe one way that you remind yourself to surrender to Jesus on a daily basis.
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Describe one way that you often live for yourself rather than for Jesus. How would you live differently in this area if you were fully yielded to Him? Write out a prayer affirming your surrender to Christ and asking for His help.