

THE FINE PRINT

Follow, Part 5

Pastor Ken Ritz * June 19, 2016 * New Life Vineyard Church

There are benefits to being a Jesus-follower.

- You'll be a better _____ (fill-in-the-blank)
- You'll avoid avoidable pain and regret
- You'll make it through the storms of life

At some point, following Jesus will _____ you.

- Salvation is free; it costs us nothing, but following Christ will eventually cost us something.
- In that moment you'll discover whose you are.
- Are you a "consumer" or a follower?

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world,

yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."
Mark 8:27–38

- "Deny myself" simply means saying no to something I want.
- We all want to save our lives, but will all eventually lose them.
- We would all give anything in order not to lose our soul.

At some point every follower of Jesus will face a decision where they must say _____ to themselves, in order to say _____ to following Jesus.

- That will become a defining moment that show you whose you are.
- When you look back on your decision, which story to you want to tell?

"You will not have to die for your faith, but you will be called upon to die to some things, for your faith."