

3. Do the maths (vv.36-38)

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot

Mark 8:34-9:1
Sunday 3rd May 2026

Intro

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

1. Come and die (v.34)

- The requirement for all
- An honest invitation

- Self-denial
 - Submission
 - Service
- Taking up your cross
 - Sacrifice
 - Suffering

“When the decision for Christ means a decision for martyrdom, everything else is effectively decided. A thousand decisions about money, service, career, lifestyle, reputation are all already made in that one decision to follow Jesus to the end. The choice for martyrdom contains within it a whole life of cross-centred discipleship.”

Tim Chester, The Ordinary Hero

“The cross is laid on every Christian ... [It] is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

- Jesus did it himself first (v.31)

2. Save your soul (v.35)

- ‘...for [Jesus] and for the gospel’