

What Can a Man Give in Exchange for His Soul?

Mark 8:34-38

Outline

Introduction: The popular T.V. series “The Apprentice” pits young aggressive entrepreneurs against each other to see who has what it takes to make it in the business big league. The most feared words “You’re fired!” are avoided at all costs. While “The Apprentice” is based on a materialistic view of the world, there is a spiritual parallel. In our series *When God Asks the Questions*, we arrive at a sobering passage in Mark 8 where Jesus asks two probing questions that have life and death consequences in how they are answered. Today we will probe the critical questions Jesus asks and determine our own destiny.

The most penetrating questions - Mark 8:36-37

“What good is it for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?” and, ***“Or what can you give in exchange for your soul?”***

Four “Musts” to avoid losing your eternal soul - Mark 8:34

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

1. You must “come after” Jesus – Faith
2. You must “deny yourself” – Relinquishment
3. You must “take up your cross” – Death
4. You must “follow Jesus” – Service

The paradoxical guarantee - 8:35

“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

How will you answer Christ’s crucial questions?

The ultimate penalty stroke - vs. 38, “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Conclusion: “He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” - *Jim Elliott, martyred missionary*