

Second Sunday in Lent, February 25, 2024

## Scripture Reading: Mark 8:31-38

*The most important stuff in this life ... can't be found in the stuff of this life.*  
—James Laurence

---

In today's Bible reading, Jesus offers a life lesson which might help us decide whether following Jesus is something we want to do: "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?" (vv. 35-36).

When people were asked about what they thought were the most important life lessons to remember, the answers varied. They include:

*Forgiveness is the key*  
*Life is all about the journey*  
*Everyone deserves a second chance*  
*Believe in yourself; if you don't, no one will*  
*Face your fears*  
*Treat other people as you want to be treated*  
*Take chances*  
*There are no mistakes, only lessons*  
*Our attitude toward life will determine life's attitude toward us*  
*Sowing gratitude reaps gratitude*  
*Patience is a virtue*

These are not bad ideas at all. They are good ideas. But Jesus cuts closer to the heart. He encourages us *to lose our lives*. We probably wouldn't like it if someone said to us, "Get lost!" But this is what Jesus says to us, "Stop being egocentric. Life is not all about you! Lose your consciousness of self. Lose your absorption in self. Abandon yourself. And when you lose your life in this sense, you will then find it!"

Don't understand? Think of those who "get lost" in their pursuit of music — the concert piano, the tenor sax, the cello. Or that person who lives to paint or write. The wonderful thing about losing your life, is that you *love* your life in losing it, and this in turn brings you joy!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, I will lose my life, and follow you. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lived Pastor Ben Metz*

## Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Romans 1-4  
**Monday:** Romans 5-8  
**Tuesday:** Romans 9-11  
**Wednesday:** Romans 12-16  
**Thursday:** Proverbs 1-3  
**Friday:** Proverbs 4-7  
**Saturday:** Psalms 19-21

## Verse to Remember

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

—Romans 8:38-39 NIV

M I C W L O O F Y C C M N C T  
 D S K A C X J X H M K I P P N  
 E N I L P I C S I D A Y R E A  
 E J H K T O T R N T W O Y K S  
 D E L I G H T E N O T U R A A  
 E U G N O T G U A E S T C S E  
 H T A P N Y O N C C D H O R L  
 A U J L X F Z T E C H Y V O P  
 E Q N E I G H B O R T I E F W  
 T H G I S N I F L R T L N J I  
 H O N E S T A O E I B S A G S  
 E V I L I T R V I M S R N T D  
 V M X U H D O A U M I T T A O  
 O S R E E P Y H E K U B E R M  
 L F R K S L E E P H C N P N R

## WORD LIST

COVENANT  
 DELIGHT  
 DISCIPLINE  
 EVIL  
 FATHER  
 FOOL  
 FORSAKE  
 FOUNTAIN  
 FRUIT  
 HEART  
 HONEST  
 HUMBLE  
 INSIGHT  
 LISTEN  
 LORD  
 LOVE  
 NEIGHBOR  
 PATH  
 PLEASANT  
 POVERTY  
 PROTECT  
 REBUKE  
 SLEEP  
 SON  
 TEACHING  
 TONGUE  
 WALK  
 WISDOM  
 YOUTH

## PROVERBIAL WORDS

Find and circle the words listed in the column to the left in the WORD SEARCH grid to the far left. These words are all taken from Proverbs 1-7 of the readings this week. Remember to look for words vertically, horizontally, diagonally, forward and backward.

## BUSINESS CARD

Can you match the name and job title that might have appeared on the business card of these people in the Bible? For example, Peter/ Fisherman.

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah   | A. Priest        |
| 2. Luke       | B. Carpenter     |
| 3. Amos       | C. Cupbearer     |
| 4. Matthew    | D. Cloth seller  |
| 5. Lydia      | E. Physician     |
| 6. Joseph     | F. Shepherd      |
| 7. Paul       | G. Tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius  | H. Tailor        |
| 9. Tabitha    | I. Silversmith   |
| 10. Demetrius | J. Soldier       |
| 11. Eli       | K. Tentmaker     |

**ANSWERS:**  
 1C, 2E, 3F,  
 4G, 5D, 6B,  
 7K, 8J, 9H,  
 10I, 11A

