

## 1. Know and confess Christ

Mark 8:29-32 - And He continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

Who do you say that Jesus is?

Do you know Him as the Christ and openly confess that to others?

*Jesus, You are the Christ. Give me the faith and courage I need to boldly confess that truth before others.*

## 2. Set your mind on the things of God

Mark 8:33 - But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Are you setting your mind on God's interests, or man's?

How can you tell?

What needs to change?

*Lord, please show me where my priorities are skewed. Help me to set my mind on Your interests, instead of on man's interests.*

## 3. Love God more than money and possessions

Mark 10:19-28 - "You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" 20 And he said to Him [Jesus], "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." 21 Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. 23 And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

How easy is it for money and possessions to take over our lives?

How can you tell that money and possessions have become more important than God in your life?

Where do your priorities lie?

What needs to change?

*Lord, help me to keep You as the number one priority in my life. Help me to be willing to give up whatever gets in the way of that.*

## 4. Humility and service

Mark 10:41-45 - Hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. 42 Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 But it is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

According to these verses, what did Christ come to do?

Are you serving God and others, giving your life for them?

When are you most likely to be self-serving, self-centered, or self-focused?

How can you change your focus at such times so that you are more focused on serving God and others?

*Lord, please forgive me for being self-serving, self-centered, and self-focused at times. Change my perspective and help me to have a servant's heart. Help me to delight in serving You and others.*

## 5. Ask Jesus what he wants you to do

*Mark 14:12 - On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"*

Do you ask for Jesus' guidance, even in the seemingly small details of life?  
How might that affect your attitude and performance of daily tasks?  
How can that prepare us to receive whatever God has to teach us through those tasks?

*Lord, where do You want me to go today? What do You want me to do? How can I please You and gladden Your heart today? How do You want to use me to glorify You?*

## 6. Be available

*Mark 14:13-16 - And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 15 And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there." 16 The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.*

How did the owner of the house make himself available to Christ?  
What did he do to prepare for Christ's coming?  
In what ways are you making yourself available to Christ?  
How are you preparing for His coming?

*Lord, my home is Your home. My food is Your food. My money is Your money. My time is Your time. Everything I am and have belong to You. Come, use it all however You deem best and may it bring glory to You!*

## 7. Obey when you don't understand

*Luke 5:4-10 - When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."*

Did the disciples understand why Jesus was telling them to cast their nets again?  
How did they respond when they didn't understand what He was doing?  
How do you respond when you don't understand what God is doing?

If the disciples hadn't obeyed, they would have missed three great spiritual blessings: the blessing of seeing God do something unusual, the blessing of being humbled, and the blessing of being called to join Christ in His kingdom work.

When have you missed spiritual blessings by disobeying God when you didn't understand what He was doing?

Will you more readily obey in the future?

*Lord, truly I have missed many spiritual blessings by not trusting You enough to obey You. Will you please forgive my disobedience and my lack of faith and trust. Right now I choose to trust You. I choose to obey, even though I don't understand what You are doing.*

## **8. Confess Christ as Lord**

*John 6:67-69 - So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" 68 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69 We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."*

Have you believed and come to know that Jesus is the Christ, the Holy One of God?  
Are you freely confessing that to others?

*Lord, You have the words of eternal life! I believe and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God. Give me boldness to freely confess You to others.*

## **9. Answer the call**

*Luke 5:9-11 - For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.*

How did the disciples respond when Jesus called them from catching fish to catching men?  
What would leaving everything to follow Jesus look like in our culture today - that is, how would it affect our daily lives?  
Have you left everything to follow Jesus?

*Lord, show me what it means to leave everything and follow You. Help me be willing to let go of my plans, my agenda, my career, my activities, or anything else that is needed in order to follow Your call for me.*