

Sermon ~ Sunday, August 28, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Title: "Profit and Lost!"

Text: Mark 8: 36

This is **TRUTH** my Brothers and Sisters! [whether we accept it or not]

"The certainties of **GOD** and the issues of men differ radically."

The certainties, the *convictions*, **The Covenants of GOD**... the issues, *the problems*, *the uninvited/unexpected complications*, *the puzzling mishaps* of men—differ radically.

Someone say with me, "You are in the real world!" Say with me. "That's **The TRUTH!**"

In this text, **JESUS** asked a *question* that dealt with the issue of "**Profit and Lost.**"

In fact, **JESUS CHRIST** *question* implies "if a man could gain the world with *all* its stuff, *its luxuries*, *its pleasures*, [the possibility is slim to none], he will still end up *the biggest loser*, in the end.

The *message* **JESUS** is *preaching* and *teaching* through this insightful *question* is that "a *secure soul* is more Eternally valuable," than the most profitable portfolio in this world. [You said what? Oh, I don't want 'the world,' just *my fair share!*]

JESUS is *preaching* and *teaching*, 'you can go after your fair share' and your *soul* will go into hell, and your profit will be lost!

Come with me, to **JESUS** question!

See **JESUS Warning** (cautioning, deterring, admonishing) in V. 34.

"And when **HE (JESUS)** had called the people [*unto HIM*] with **HIS** disciples..."

It's a *warning* (cautioning, deterring, admonishing) to "crowds," to "the whole world," more so, to **HIS** disciples...

Come with me, to **JESUS** question!

Note also in vs. 34, **JESUS** is *warning* against "indulgence."

[satisfaction vs. satisfied, gratifying vs. gratified, greedy vs. grateful] And, True Discipleship!

Point: a choice *must* be made... "**Whosoever will come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow ME.**"

Point: a choice *must* be made...

Love comfort and ease **or** commitment and discipleship
Love wealth and property **or** work and compassion
Love recognition and fame **or** humility and sacrifice
Love position and power **or** service and ministry

Come with me, to **JESUS CHRIST** question!

1. It Challenges our Priorities.

Note: two different **Priorities**... *one* involves the pursuit [chasing, stalking] of *worldly things*. *The other* involves the preservation [protection, maintenance] of *the soul*.

What **Priorities** govern your Life?

A. Is my, your Priorities “selfish?”

Many today are like the *little boy* who was riding a wooden horse with *his sister*. Frustrated at her, he said, “if one of us get off, there would be more room for me.”

Be honest this morning, do you live your life for the sole *purpose* of making things better for me? Do your **Priorities** involve the important and benefit of me?

B. Do we have SPIRITual Priorities?

Where does **The WILL of GOD** rank on your list of “I wills, and I wants?”

How important is **The WORD of GOD** to you?

How important is **Prayer** to **GOD** and hearing what **GOD** is saying to you?

How important is **The Church of GOD** in **The KINGdom of GOD** to you?

The *question*, “**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**” **It challenges our Perspectives.** [How you, we, I look at things!]

How you look at something makes all the difference in how you will approach it...

--12 *spies* were sent to *spy* out Canaan Land. 10 saw “*giants*” and themselves as “*grasshoppers*” Yet, smacking on luscious “*grapes*” that one cluster took two men to pack on pole.

And 2 *spies* saw “**GOD’S-Land** flowing with milk and honey” [Abundant Fertility... nothing like Egypt, *mitzrayim*, which literally means “*narrow places*.” *Slavery* is constricted, oppressive, but *Freedom* is wide and spacious... it takes a lot to get satisfied with *leeks* and *garlic* but milk and honey... not nourishing food—you better eat that, that good for you... but **SPIRITual** Food—Soul Food]

JESUS *preaching* and *teaching* **challenges our Perspectives.**

--David fought Goliath *because* Goliath was too Big to miss... while the soldiers of Israel, thought Goliath was too Big to knock down. [The bigger they come, the harder they fall!]

Two different Perspectives... you and I are living by *one* or the *other*.

1. Your life is limited to the world. You see this life as *the only journey* you’ll ever make. Your philosophy is “you only go around once (like Israel a eleven-day journey, turned to 40 years) and you still haven’t arrived... You will go down saying, “At least, I had a good time...” Or,

2. Your Life is lived in Eternity.

You’ve been *preparing* to *Live Eternally*, since that day “by **The GRACE of GOD**” you *believed* and *received*, “For **GOD** so loved the world...” “As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one.” “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of **GOD.**” “For when we were yet without strength, in due time **CHRIST** died for the ungodly.” “That if thou shalt confess with they mouth **The LORD JESUS**, and shalt believe in thine heart that **GOD** hath raised **HIM** from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” For whosoever shall call upon **The Name of The LORD** shall be saved.” “I came to **JESUS...**”

Everyday since, living here, *the days are short* and with *vaporous speed*, but another day closer to my **Eternal for ever, for ever more...** What I lost here, can never be compared to what I’ll gain over there!!! **Soul Happy! Soul Glad! Soul Rejoicing!**

Consider how precious your Soul must be when both **GOD and the *Devil* want it!!!**