

## Bible Class Notes – Studies in Mark’s Gospel – Lesson 95

### Gains and Losses In Following Jesus

**This week** – The Lord Jesus teaches us the unique value of our eternal soul.

**“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain  
the whole world, and lose his own soul?”  
“Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”  
*Mark 8 v36.37***

#### Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Mark 8 v1-12 (Jesus miraculously fed 4,000 men)	
Monday	Mark 8 v13-21 (Jesus begins to teach His disciples)	
Tuesday	Mark 8 v22-30 (Peter says, ‘Thou art The Christ’)	
Wednesday	Mark 8 v31-38 (Jesus teaches the value of a soul)	
Thursday	Mark 9 v1-13 (Christ is Transfigured before them)	
Friday	Philippians 3 v1-21 (The excellency of Christ)	
Saturday	Isaiah 53 v1-13 (The cost to the Lord of saving a soul)	

**Important Thought for us Today: What is a soul?** The human soul distinguishes us from animals. God created man with a living, eternal soul - a unique spiritual dimension, (*Genesis 2v7*). God gave animals life but did not give them a soul. The soul is that unseen spiritual part of us, given by God at conception, which includes the mind, the will, and the ‘heart (the seat of our emotions, passions, and desires). When God created Adam and Eve He breathed into them a perfect, living soul. But Adam and Eve sinned by breaking God’s Law. Not content with knowing ‘good’ and having wonderful fellowship with God they desired to know ‘good and evil’, thus breaking their relationship with God. We thank the Lord for the eternal plan of salvation in that Christ agreed to come to earth as a perfect Man, to die on Calvary to save sinners. This is the Biblical Gospel message that we preach, It is only by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit, Who brings the sinner in repentance and faith to Christ, that we can have a restored, everlasting relationship with our God.

#### A hymn expressing the joy of personally knowing the Saviour: (210)

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| <p>1. Jesus, and shall it ever be,<br/>A mortal man ashamed of Thee,<br/>Ashamed of Thee, Whom angels praise,<br/>Whose glories shine through endless days?</p> <p>5. Ashamed of Jesus! – Yes, I may<br/>When I’ve no guilt to wash away,<br/>No tear to wipe, no good to crave,<br/>No fears to quell, no soul to save.</p> | <p>4. Ashamed of Jesus, that dear Friend<br/>On Whom my hopes of Heaven depend!<br/>No! when I blush, be this my shame,<br/>That I no more revere His name.</p> <p>6. Till then – nor is my boasting vain-<br/>Till then I boast a Saviour slain;<br/>And O, may this my glory be,<br/>That Christ is not ashamed of me.</p> |
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EDT Bible Class Take Home Sheet

## The Lord Jesus Teaches Us About The Value of a Soul.

- **The Lord Jesus Showed His Compassion Towards The People.**
  - **Miraculously Feeding Them** - Lovingly caring for their physical needs.
  - **Teaching Them** - Words of eternal life – Spiritual food for their souls.
  - **‘I Must Die’** – Peter objected. The Lord said, **‘Get the behind Me Satan’**.
- **The Lord Jesus, The Promised Messiah, Challenges Us With These Words:**  
*“Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed.”* (Mark 8 v34-38)
  - **‘Follow Me’** – Not to join an earthly kingdom but His Heavenly Kingdom.
  - **‘Take Up Thy Cross’** – The Christian’s life is not promised to be easy, but the Lord has promised to guard and guide the believer through all life’s experiences. Faithful service is costly – No worldly gain, but spiritual gain. Denying self to follow the Lord – **‘Who had nowhere to lay His head.’** (Luke 9v58)
  - **‘Whosoever will save his life shall lose it.’** – Selfish living in this life will bring eternal loss and never bring eternal gain of God’s wonderful Heaven.
  - **‘Whosoever will lose his life shall save it.’** - The only way to save our *real* lives (our eternal souls) is to fully surrender to the Lord’s control, by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and living in full obedience to Him.
  - **‘What shall it profit if we gain the whole world and lose our own soul?’** Many spend all their time and effort to gain this world’s riches and goods, only to find their enjoyment snatched away by illness, old age, and death.
  - **‘What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?’** What a serious question? Our souls are so valuable that, to save them, the Lord Jesus had to suffer an agonising death of physical pain on the cross, as well as also bearing the holy wrath of God that we ought to eternally suffer in Hell. **What a cost?**
  - **‘Whosoever will be ashamed of Me and My words I will be ashamed of them before My Father when I return in glory at the end of time to judge the world.’**  
The Lord is looking forward with delight to present all for whom He died to His Father, with all their sins removed, clothing them in His righteousness.

*Will you give yourself fully to the Lord now, to put Him first, to love and obey Him in everything?*

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”**  
 Philippians 3 v7-10