

March 17, 2019

The Road Less Traveled

The Big Leagues

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Mark 8:31- 38

Three decisions we need to make

It's ___ God's _____ game plan, not mine.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Proverbs 19:21

Live a life of commitment vs a life of ___ comfort ____.

Colossians 3:5

Hebrews 12:1

Build your life on ___ eternity _____, not the moment.

Major Leagues

If you could play in the big leagues in sports or some other area of life, what would you want to do and why?

Is there any area in life that you consider yourself a professional vs a dabbler? What's the area? What's the difference between a professional and a dabbler?

When Jesus calls us to be His disciples, He assumes that we will rise to the level of the big leagues. He doesn't want us to dabble in the Christian life, but he wants us to be totally committed to following His teachings.

Read Mark 8:31-38

If you had been a disciples of Christ, how would you have responded when Jesus pictured His own demise?

Why did Peter react the way he did in vs 32?

Focus is important. Jesus says we can either have in mind the things of God or the things of the World.

Read Colossians 3:1-7

What does it take to "set our hearts"?

How do we keep focused on above and not on earthly things?

Why do you think it can be a constant battle?

How does this passage enable us to perhaps keep our focus?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:18 - 5:7

The world is enticing and exciting. It's easy to get caught up in the world. In what ways do we see ourselves getting caught up in the world's plan?

If we are faithful in our focus we have God's promise.

Read Matthew 16:24-26, Luke 9:25-27, 2 Timothy 2:12

What are the promises for those who remain faithfully committed to Christ?

How does this relate in our lives?

What is Jesus asking you to surrender? When we let go and totally commit ourselves to His plan, it opens us up to a closer relationship with Him.

Contrast the life of spiritual commitment and earthly comfort. What does it mean in Mark 8:34 when Jesus says, "if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up my cross and follow me."?

How does that verse speak to you personally?

How do you see that verse challenged in the Church and in society?

Comforts for one are not comforts for another. How do we gauge ourselves in whether we are being obedient to this principle?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

In light of this passage, how should we consider everyday life?

What happens in life when we focus on the unseen instead of the seen?

The world system is built on immediate gratification and living for present pleasures. But if we lose the meaning of eternity and fail to see life from an eternal perspective, we lose everything important from God's point of view.