

Destination Easter

Week 1: The Vision

Mark 8:31-9:1

1. Something's coming, pay _____.

"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Mark 8:31-33 (NIV)

A. God is always _____ us.

B. _____ comes from the things of God.

2. It is full of Plan and _____.

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mark 8:34-37 (NIV)

A. _____.

* God always _____.

B. True _____.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."

— Jim Elliot

3. It will not be _____.

"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38 (NIV)

4. It will be _____!

"And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Mark 9:1 (NIV)

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come."

Ephesians 1:19-21 (NLT)

5. It won't be successful without _____.

"God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you."

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (The Message)

Action Steps

I commit to cultivating the vision of Easter Sunday

Review the biblical story (Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 18-20)

Participate in the 15-day devotional

Pray for fresh personal applications

I commit to inviting others to enjoy Easter

List the people in my closest circle of influence

Ask God to show me who else needs inviting

Pray for opportunities to invite