

Deep in the woods: Called to deep commitment
Second Sunday of Lent

What do we have to lose?

Mark 8:31-38, Romans 4:13-25

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31

He said all this quite openly v. 32a

The “hard sayings” of Jesus...
are not hard to understand;
they are hard to live out.

*And Peter took him aside and
began to rebuke him. v. 32b*

*But turning and looking at his disciples, he
rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan!”
For you are setting your mind not on divine things,
but on human things. v. 33*

Peter, like us, saw what he wanted to see
in the Scriptures.

*He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them **deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.***

v. 34

Deny: Jesus is Lord of my life;
I am no longer in charge

Take up your cross: embrace my unique calling

Follow me: Jesus is moving, I am moving

In Mark's context, the sayings point to the fact that the crucial divide is not between those who acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, and those who do not, but between those disciples who are prepared to follow him on the way of suffering, and those who are not.

Morna Hooker, Commentary on Mark



*For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake, and
for the sake of the gospel, will save it.*

*For what will it profit them to gain the whole
world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can
they give in return for their life? v. 35-37*

Not,

What do I have to lose?

Rather:

What do I have to, lose?

How is God calling me to deep commitment?

What do you sense God calling you
to commit to more deeply?