

CURRENT SERIES

UNCOMFORTABLE

American culture is a culture of comfort. It's being sold to us everywhere we look. We're encouraged to do what we want, when we want, with whomever we want. If something is uncomfortable, we want to avoid it at all costs. The Christian faith, though, is just that: uncomfortable.

MESSAGE NOTES

The Uncomfortable Cross

Mark 8:34 | Pastor Matthew Starner

Mark 8:34 NLT: "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."

At the center of the Christian faith is the _____—an _____.

Following Jesus means _____ and taking up our own _____.

Taking up our cross means:

- The loss of being your own _____.
- The loss of _____.
- The loss of _____.

Jesus doesn't say that we _____ have to take up our cross at some point, but that we _____.

Jesus provides the _____.

1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT: Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

Want to follow Jesus? Join Him _____.

TALK IT OVER

These questions can help you take today's sermon and help you apply it to your life or find your next steps. Use them with your family, with friends, or in your own personal devotion time. **NEW: Find an expanded version of these questions at JourneyWired.org/discussion-questions.**

1. Read Mark 8:31-38. How would you paraphrase what Jesus says in verse 34? Who did Jesus include in this invitation?
2. In Mark 8:34, Jesus says if anyone would follow Him, they must take up their cross. In other words, it's not optional. What examples have you seen in American Christianity of people trying to make it optional?
3. What does it mean for us to lose our lives for Jesus' sake (v. 35)? What other things do people lose their lives for? What do those things promise? What do they ultimately deliver?
4. What gets in the way of us taking up our cross and losing our lives for Jesus' sake?

THIS WEEK IN THE BIBLE

Take today's message beyond Sunday and into the rest of your week. Read and reflect on these verses alone, with your family, or with a friend. Talk about how they apply to your life today or what God might be teaching you through His Word.

Sunday	Mark 8:34
Monday	1 Peter 4:12-13
Tuesday	Galatians 5:24
Wednesday	Colossians 3:1
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-10
Friday	Romans 6:4-6
Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:14-15

ONLINE NOTES

You can also take notes and engage with the message using the **YouVersion Bible** app. With **YouVersion Events** you can follow along with the message, take notes, read related Bible verses, ask questions, and more.