

The Divine Necessity

Mark 8:22-9:13

The cross is the divine necessity:

1. The Father _____ it

“This ‘must’ is often labeled the ‘divine necessity,’ for it expresses what is according to the divine plan, the divine will.”¹

2. The Son _____ it

A. Who do people say Jesus is?

1. _____

2. Son of _____

3. Son of _____

B. What does he desire?

¹ Peter Holt, *The Cross from a Distance*, p. 49.

3. The disciple _____ it

“Self-denial is not denying to ourselves luxuries such as chocolates, cakes, cigarettes and cocktails (though it may include this); it is actually denying or disowning ourselves, renouncing our supposed right to go our own way.”²

Discussion/application questions

1. What evidence do you find in this passage that the Father requires the Son to go to the cross?
2. What titles are used of Jesus in this passage and what is their significance?
3. What are three characteristics of a disciple (according to 8:34-38)?
4. Where is one specific place in your life where you are struggling to renounce yourself? How does Christ’s finished work at the cross position you to make progress (i.e. how does justification position you to make progress in this area of sanctification)?

Next Week: The Mystery of the Cross, Mark 9:14-50

² John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, p. 279.