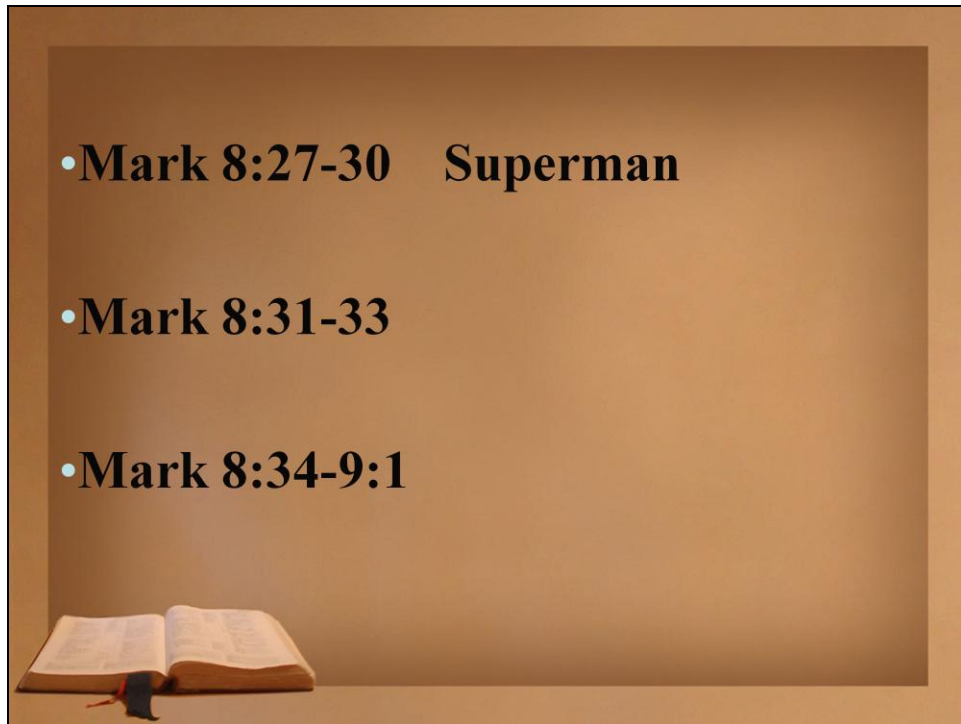


# *Superman, Jesus, and Me*



## Sermon Notes:

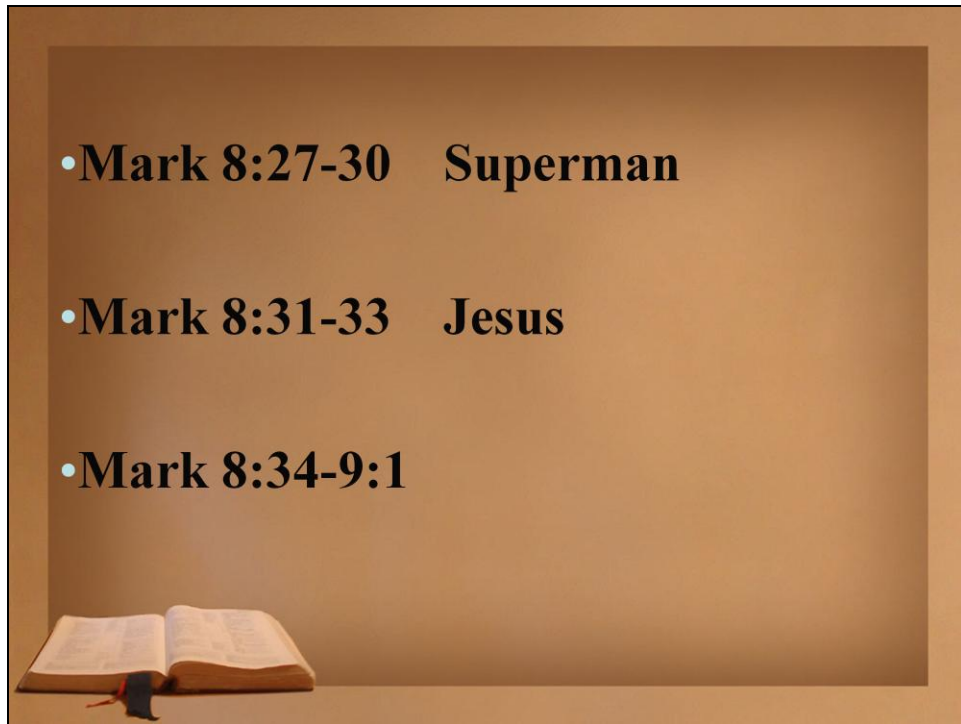
1. Today's sermon title is only partly because I saw *Man of Steel* last weekend.
2. For me, the title is not just a catchy movie reference with a nod to pop culture. It's actually an outline of this morning's Scripture reading.



3. When Jesus asked, who do people say I am? The disciples replied, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” It was as if they were looking for a Superman who would save them.

4. When Jesus asked, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.” He too was thinking “Superman”. That may have been why Jesus told his disciples not to say anything—Peter had the right word, but didn’t understand what it meant for Jesus to be the Christ.

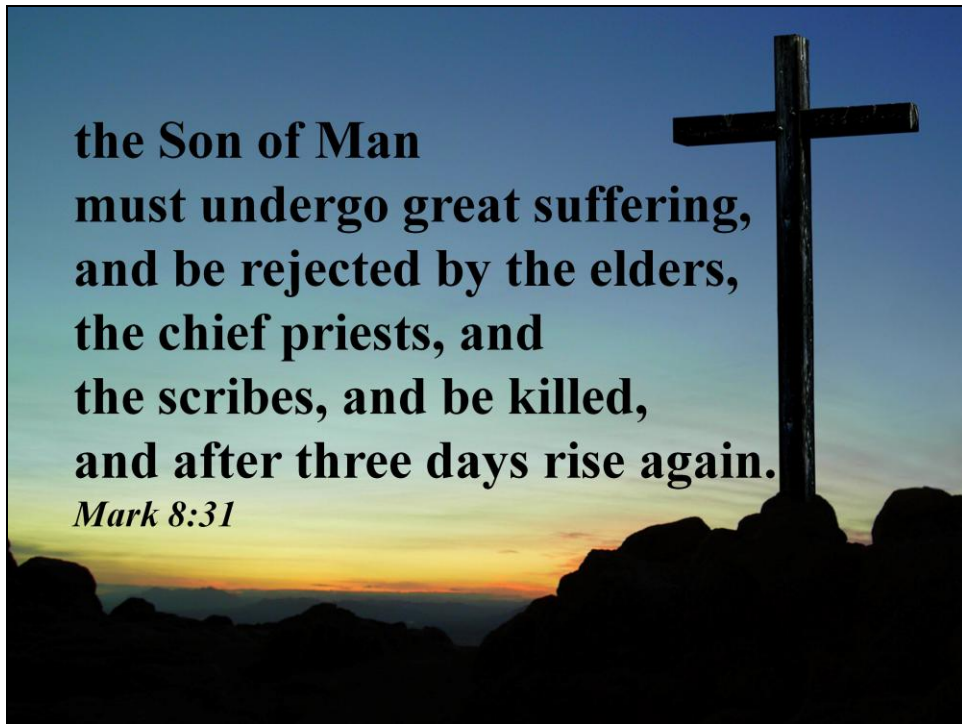
5. The next section of our text focuses on what Jesus had to say about himself.



6. In the movie, there are some interesting parallels drawn between Superman and Jesus.

7. In the end, however, Superman uses his physical powers to beat back oppression and evil, while Scripture reveals Jesus as a different kind of Superman—more than a Superman—who defeats oppression and evil with love, suffering, and sacrifice.

8. This is how Jesus describes what it means to be the Messiah:



**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*

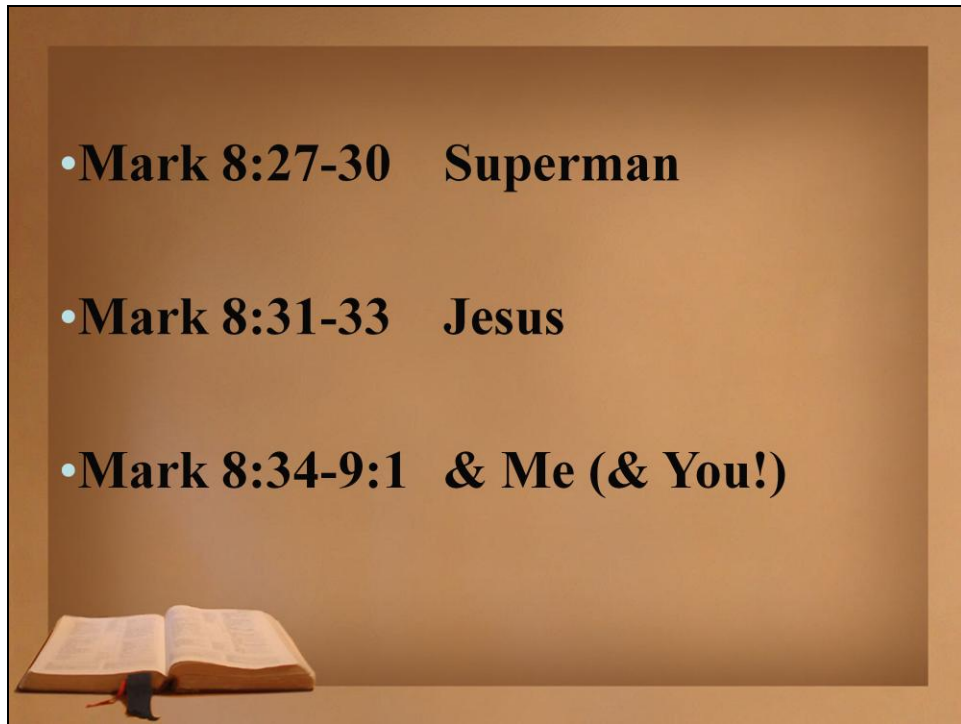
9. Peter is so horrified by the thought of Jesus' death that he says "no" – in the parallel passage in Matthew 16:22, Peter says, "Never, Lord!...This shall never happen to you!"
10. You see, Peter was still thinking "Superman."
11. But Jesus rebukes him:



12. When Jesus says to Peter “Get behind me,” he uses the same words as Mark 1:17 when he calls his first disciples to “follow me” (literally follow behind me).

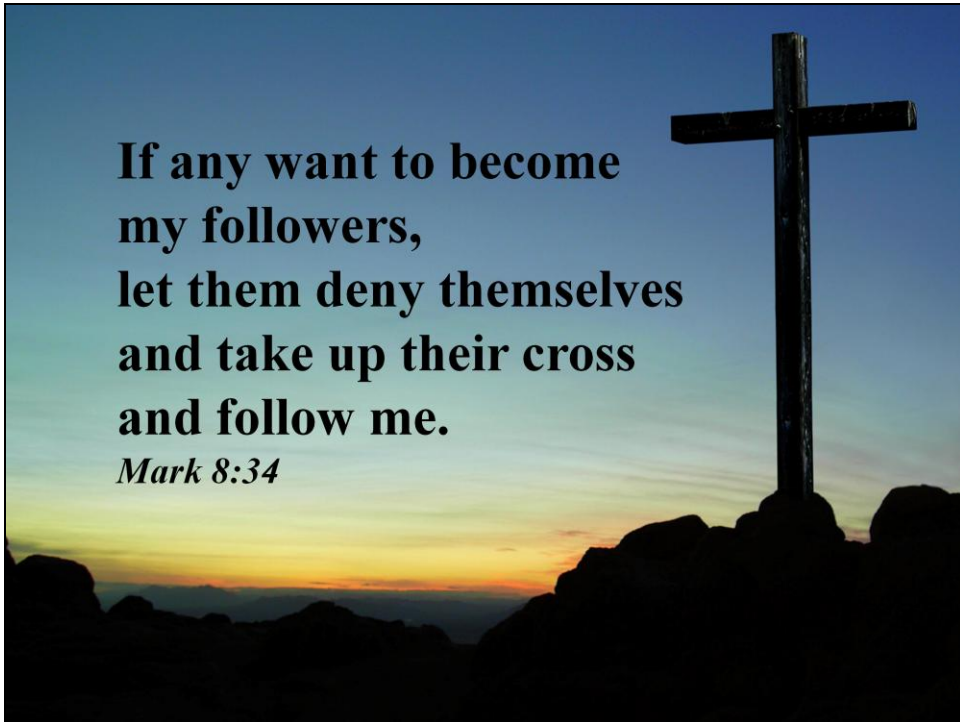
13. This is the only place for a disciple of Jesus—following behind him.

14. This brings us to the third part of our text. What does all of this mean to me, and to you?



15. In *Man of Steel*, Superman had a great destiny. His real father sent him to earth to save their own people and ultimately to save the earth. Superman's human father didn't know all of that background, but he knew that his adopted son was destined for great things. Only he didn't want him to reveal who he was too early. He wanted him to wait. He was afraid that his son would be misunderstood. That people weren't ready to know who he really was. He said, "once they find out what you can do, it will change their notion of what it means to be human."

16. That's another parallel to Jesus. Because once we know who Jesus is, it changes our notion of what it means to be human. Jesus says,

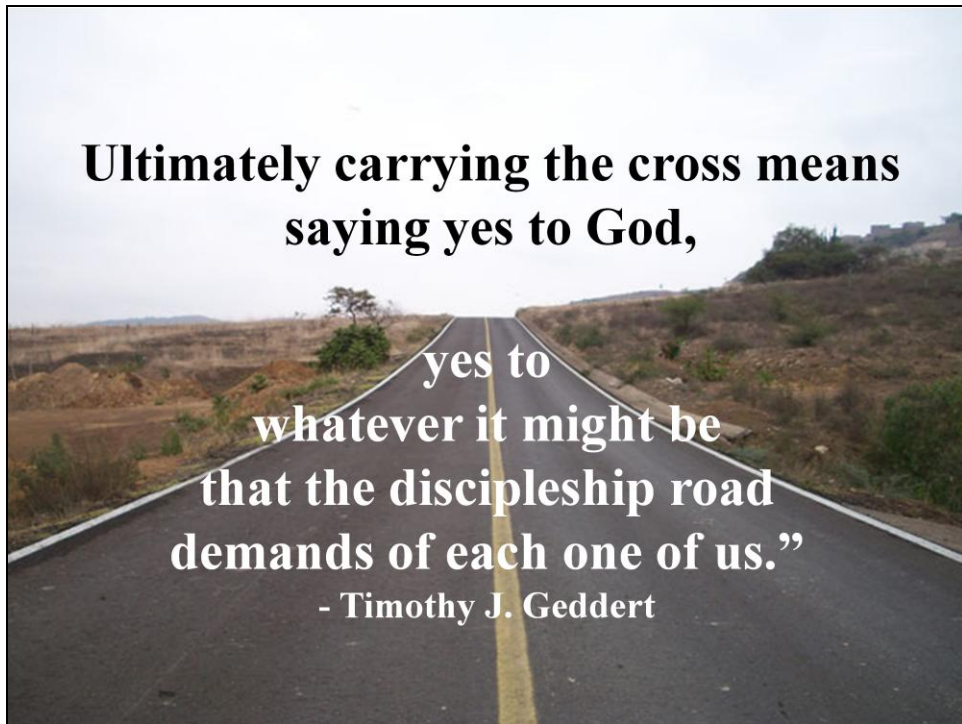


**If any want to become  
my followers,  
let them deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow me.**

*Mark 8:34*

17. Again, this is literally follow behind me. Not running ahead with our own ideas. Not trying to tell God what to do. Not being preoccupied with our own plans. But following God's leading. Listening to God in prayer. Reading and studying the Scriptures. Taking the time to reflect on what God is doing in our lives.

18. New Testament professor Tim Geddert says:



19. Personal story/practical examples.

20. Congregational Response: What is my yes to God today?