Our scripture comes from Mark 10:28-31. While you’re finding that, There was an older couple having dinner in a restaurant. The wife sees another couple about their age sitting in a booth nearby, the man has his arm around her, whispering things in her ear, and she’s smiling and blushing. The woman turns to her husband and says, "Look at the couple over there. Look how close he’s sitting, how he's talking to her. Look at how sweet he is. Why don't you ever do that?"

Her husband glances over, shrugs, and says, "Honey, I don't even know that woman."

**Mark 10:28-31 28Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” 29So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, 30who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. 31But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.”**

As we enter into this Easter Season, we recall that Jesus left all to come to earth to die on that Cross for those who will confess that He is Lord – John 6:38 says For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. Jesus left all! He knows what all looks like and, when Peter says that “we have left all”, Jesus knows he hasn’t. Just like we haven’t. The issue here is where is our focus? At this Easter season, we must be sure that we have our eyes firmly on Jesus the Eternal and not on the world that passeth away.

Verse 28 says, Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” Not true. Peter had given some. Only Christ gave all. Matthew 8:14 Now when Jesus had come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother lying sick with a fever. Scripture confirms that Peter had a house, and a wife. Luke 5 tells us he had a boat. Jesus never tells Peter to sell his house or give up his boat. He tells him to follow Him. Peter had sacrificed, but not nearly to the extent of Jesus and not nearly as much as Peter and the other disciples would eventually give when they finally **REALLY** caught fire for the gospel.

When people catch fire for the gospel, laying aside the dying for the eternal suddenly is the only thing that makes sense. We stop pursuing that which moth eats and rust destroys and we start pursuing Jesus. We realize that He’s all that matters! We invest everything in the eternal, groaning for that mansion on the other side.

Jesus gently corrects Peter in verses 29-30 - So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s,who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.When we pursue the gospel, everything changes! Family changes – we gain brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers through the fellowship of the church. Mark 3:33-35 But He answered them, saying, “Who is My mother, or My brothers?” And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.” Houses change – Mark 6:10 Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. Loving those who love God becomes our priority when pursuing the gospel. The things of the world grow dim, meaningless, worthless. Those who don’t know Jesus don’t understand this! And that’s where the persecutions begin.

People tend to persecute what they don’t understand. The world says hate. Jesus says love. The world says hoard. Jesus says release. The world says live for today. Jesus says lay up treasure in heaven. Is it any wonder that when we shine the light of Jesus the darkness of the world doesn’t comprehend it? John 1:5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. What the world doesn’t understand it hates. John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Sounds an awful lot like persecutions. Mark 8:34-35 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. Do not be shocked when the friends you had before Jesus hate you after Jesus! He told us before He ever ascended to heaven. Why would we expect it to be different now?

Verse 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first. Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Luke 14:10-11 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Today, what place does the Gospel hold? Has the Gospel opened a whole new world or does life look much the same as before Jesus called? Only you and Jesus know that answer, but this is a great time to compare notes and make the changes needed. If you’ve never accepted Jesus and been baptized, today is the day to make the greatest change of all. Come as we sing.