

## **“Let it Go”**

**10/6/19**

**Luke 14:26-27;33 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.**

**27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple...Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”**

**Notice how Jesus says here that living life as a faithful disciple of His depends on our willingness to let go.**

**14:33 “Those of you who do not give up (let go of) everything you have cannot be my disciple.”**

**He’s not saying that the moment you get saved you must immediately walk away from everything you own or cherish...**

**He’s saying you must be *WILLING* to let go of anything that will hinder your ability to move forward.**

**Every affection or possession that interferes with true discipleship, if it stands in the way of following Him, must be let’s go of.**

**We must be willing to let go of pride, reputation, friendships, personal goals, material things, attachments of the heart, habits—anything that stands in the way of faithfully following Him.**

**The moment I came to Christ I knew I had to let go of several things in order to move forward with Him—old friends that wanted nothing to do with the Lord, habits that didn't glorify Him, ways of thinking that weren't in line with the teaching of Scripture—all had to go in total surrender.**

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**Now, I want to look at two truths today that show that letting go is not a negative, but a great positive:**

- 1. God never asks us to let go of something that is best for us.**
- 2. What He asks us to release will be replaced by something better.**

**But first, let's look at how letting go is modeled all throughout the Bible, starting with God Himself.**

### **I. God was the first to let go**

**Way back in the endless reaches of eternity, before our world was even created, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had a meeting.**

**In this meeting they discussed how man was going to be created, and that he would quickly fall into sin.**

**His sin would immediately release death upon the earth and would cut off his relationship with God.**

**And his sin would have to be atoned for or humanity would be hopelessly lost forever.**

**So God decided then and there to “let go” of His only begotten Son—that He would be the One to come to earth as the Sacrifice Lamb to die for our sins.**

**We all know the verse, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”**

**But think of it this way, “For God so loved the world that He gave (let go) of His only begotten Son.”**

**Now listen to this amazing verse: “For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time...” (2 Tim 1:9 NLT).**

**God let go of His Son before time began!**

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**Then next, Jesus “let go” of all that He had in heaven in order to come to earth:**

**“Though he was God, (Jesus) did not demand and cling to his rights as God, 7 but laid aside (let go of) his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men” (Phil 2:6-7 LB).**

**Jesus temporarily let go of all the power and glory He had in heaven in order to reach and save the human race!**

**So look at the divine pattern here—God let go of Jesus, Jesus let go of His power and glory, and then next we see that:**

**Joseph and Mary let go of their reputations in order to cooperate with God’s plan of a virgin conceiving and bringing forth His only begotten Son.**

**The Bible says that Mary was pregnant with Christ before she and Joseph came together as husband and wife.**

**No doubt her pregnancy was the talk of the town!**

**And think about this: Mary herself had also risked the possibility that Joseph would not accept her explanation of**

**having become pregnant by the Holy Spirit....so she “let go” of him, trusting God to handle it.**

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**Then once Jesus began His ministry we see that He required the same “letting go” from those He called:**

**On approaching Peter and John on the seashore, Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him” (Matt. 4:19-20 NKJV).**

**Their “nets” were their vocation, and their surroundings were their home—they let go of both to follow the Lord!**

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**And when you track the disciple’s lives through the gospels you see that they “let go” of one thing after another to follow Christ.**

**They “let go” of their own soft beds to follow the Savior who, by His own admission, had “nowhere to lay his head.”**

**They let go of the peace and quiet of the seashore to endure the harsh criticisms of Jesus’s detractors.**

**They let go of all their safety nets to follow Him across land and sea through storms, and encounters with demons, and no knowledge of where their next meal would come from.**

**—They became what Jesus had called them to be because of their willingness to “let go” of what He required.**

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**Paul the Apostle’s life was nothing but a long string of “letting go’s...”**

**He wrote, “Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life...I’ve dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him....I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally...” (Phil. 3:8-10 The Message).**

**In short, “He gave up all so he could know Christ!”**

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**So now, let’s consider the two things I mentioned at the beginning of the message.**

**II. God never asks us to let go of something that is best for us.**

**Whatever it is you're clinging to, no matter how much you think you must have it, that you can't live without it—*If God is saying, "Let it go" it is not the best for you!***

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**For instance, one of the things we growl at God about letting go of is the past—the pains of it, the glories of it, the memories of it.**

**We glorify our past at the expense of what God has next for us!**

**But here's the deal, living in the past is not BEST for you, because you can't grab your future while clinging to your past!**

**So the Bible says, "Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead," (Phil. 3:13 LB)**

**Someone said, "Don't look back, you're not going that way!"**

**Another wrote, "Inhale the future, exhale the past!"**

**I love this one: "Let go or be dragged!"**

**I don't want to be dragged across the finish line hanging onto things he wanted me to let go of—I want to break the tape at full speed!**

**So if God says, “LET GO” it is for my best—not to hurt me, but to free me.**

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**Secondly,**

**III. Whatever the Lord asks us to let go of, He intends to replace with something better.**

**There is ALWAYS a greater blessing on the other side of letting go!**

**Think of the disciples—they let go of house and home, vocation and familiarity to follow Jesus.**

**Did they gain or did they lose?**

**A few lowly blue collar fishermen stepped out of total obscurity where they would have lived out common, ordinary lives and eventually died unknown to anyone but a few friends and neighbors—And stepped onto the pages of history to be known and revered by tens of millions.**

**Their writings have been read by more people than any other authors in the world.**

**They shook the Roman world for God, and have become the source of inspiration for countless saints for all time.**

**In letting go they grabbed hold of their eternal destiny!**

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**Do you need to “let go” of something today?**

**Are you in a battle with the Holy Spirit about a person, or a place, or some thing that He wants you to release?**

**Let’s pray!**