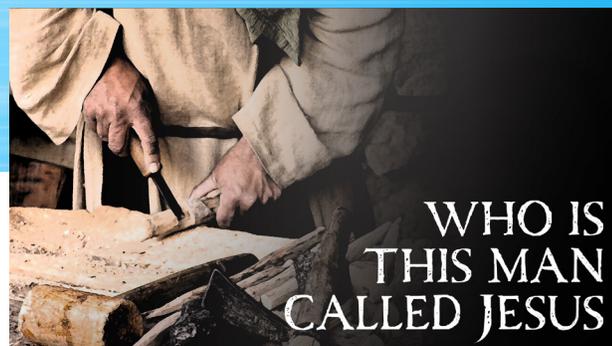


Discussion Questions

November 21, 2021

Living a Sacrificial Life



1. Read Luke 9:21-25

- How do you think the disciples would have understood Jesus' command to take up their cross daily? Consider how they understood what a cross is and what it represents.
- What does it mean for us today to daily take up our cross and follow Jesus?

2. Read Philippians 2:3-8

- In verse 5 of this passage Paul says we must have the "mindset" of Christ. Describe what that mindset is by first using the words from verses 3-8, and then summarizing in your own words.
- Give some practical examples of what it looks like for us to have this mindset today.

3. Read Ephesians 5:1-2, 5:21, & 5:25

- What do each of these passages show about how Paul interprets Christ's Command to love one another?

4. Jan Johnson in her book The Invitation to The Jesus Life says,

"Death to self is releasing the desire to have things my way and being open to how God leads me today. It makes way for the eternal kind of life that we were born for."

- The world would say "death to self" is the opposite of an abundant life. How does "death to self" or the cruciform/cross-shaped life make way for us to experience the abundant life that Jesus says he created us for?

5. Is there any area, you have felt the Lord challenge you this week in what it means for you to "Daily take up your cross and follow Jesus?"



SUNDAY November 21, 2021

Who is This Man Called Jesus: Living a Sacrificial Life

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous person; though perhaps for the good person someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 15:13

Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul?"

This wasn't just a matter of dying FOR them. Jesus expected his disciples to die with him, for that would be the only way they would "save their life"—by losing it (vv. 24–26). Jesus would have no cheerleaders, disciples who would try to encourage him from the sidelines as they watched him die for their sins. "We're praying for you, Jesus. Lord God, please help Jesus carry his cross. God, give him strength to die for our sins. Come on, Jesus. You can do it. Don't give up. We're right here. If you make it to the end, we'll love you forever." No. Jesus will have no spectator disciples.

Dr Rodney Reeves - The Story of God Bible Commentary

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 15:12-14

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:25,

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

1 John 3:23

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Death to self is releasing the desire to have things my way and being open to how God leads me today. It makes way for the eternal kind of life that we were born for.
Jan Johnson - Invitation to the Jesus Life

The cost of Discipleship is high, but the cost of Non-Discipleship is far-greater... Non-discipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God's overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring (John 10:10)."

Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.