



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. What is the one thing that stood out to you in this week's message?
2. Work through the five losses we are called to experience from this morning's notes. Where do you feel challenged? Where have you been resistant to 'deny yourself'?
3. Consider the loss and gain trade-offs that Christ offers you. How have His gains changed your life?
4. This week, look for an opportunity to share with someone the loss and gain trade-offs you have experienced.

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Do your kids have questions about why Jesus died on the cross? How have you expressed the sacrifice of Christ on the cross?
2. Moms and Dads, take some time to talk through the idea that God has called us to surrender our hearts and lives to Jesus. What practical ways might your children engage this call to 'deny themselves'?
3. How can you as a family practice this together this week?
4. Take some time to thank God for His faithfulness together.



Today's Service

February 11th, 2018

Series: Uncomfortable

Part 2: The Uncomfortable Cross

Pastor Brian Stanley



Mark 8:34 (NLT) ³⁴Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.”

At the center of our faith is the _____ - an _____ device.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT) ¹⁸The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NLT) ²⁷Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

Mark 8:27-32 (NLT) ²⁷Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.” ²⁹Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³²As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. ³³Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” ³⁴Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

The invitation and requirement to ‘give up your life’ has less to do with being willing to physically die, and more to do with giving up _____ of doing things.

1. Be willing to give up being your own _____.

Only one person can be _____ of your life and it’s either you or it’s _____.

2. Be willing to lose your _____ religion.

Mark 10:45 (NLT) ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

3. Be willing to lose your _____.

4. Be willing to lose your _____-ness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NLT) ¹⁴Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what union can there be between God’s temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: “I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹⁷Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

5. Be willing to lose your _____.

(Matt 6:19-21, Luke 12:33-34, Philippians 3:7-9)

Every taking-up-our-cross loss that we endure is _____ it.

Hebrews 13:13 (NLT) ¹³So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore.

UNCOMFORTABLE