

Following a Crucified Lord

Where we’ve been

Luke 9:21-22 “And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²²saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

The Big Question: *What does it look like to follow a crucified Messiah?*

Two Postures

Self-denial (humility before God) vs. self-exaltation

Two phrases describe the posture of the disciple: deny self, pick up your cross.

What self-denial isn’t!

Deuteronomy 14:25-26 “[When you bring your offering]... bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses ²⁶and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

1 Timothy 6:17 “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”

What self-denial is

“Self-denial is a recognition that he must save because disciples cannot save themselves, that life must be given over into God’s care and protection. Disciples do not respond to their own personal wills, but to God.” – Darrell Bock

Self-denial is essentially humble faith. It’s believing that God is God, and you’re not. You deny yourself and accept God as Lord and king.

Adam vs. Christ

The only ladders in Christ’s kingdom are those on which you can climb downwards.

Two Paths

Losing your life vs. gaining the world

“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. **It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.** It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: “ye were bought at a price,” and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us.” – Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

The alternative – You keep what you own. You don’t pluck out your eye or cut off your hand. You hate your family. You keep your job. You don’t lose your life. You don’t defend yourself.

A cruciform life

Picking up your cross meant a death sentence. It meant rejection. It meant condemnation. Tied to Jesus, it meant that, though being innocent, we will share the shame of rejection and death.

This is surrender. It’s absolute commitment.

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. - Jesus

Two Prospects

Glory vs. shame

We need an eschatological view of discipleship. Or, more simply, followers of Jesus need to remember where history is headed.

Jesus’ resurrection is our resurrection

Who will you follow?

Special appeal – we need more people to enter into ministry.

Questions for Personal Study

1. Have you committed to following Jesus, with everything that it entails? Or is it on your own terms?
2. What does self-denial look like for you?
3. Have you ever experienced rejection for following Jesus? What was your difficulty and comfort during that time?
4. How is Jesus’ death and resurrection a picture of our own journey with Jesus?