



Icon - Part 2

The life of Jesus was considered bizarre from day one. The powerful political and religious authorities of the time viewed the entire thing as baffling— A king on a cross? And for those who came to believe in the deity of Jesus, following this kind of king was risky. After all, it required a person to pretty much give up on every value that had been prominent in the Roman world, in favor of something so contrary to our nature that we are tempted to dismiss it.

Getting Started

1. When do you tend to feel most fulfilled? What kinds of actions, situations, choices produce this experience?

What About You?

2. Andy talked about Madonna's fear of being mediocre, insubstantial, and uninteresting? Do you relate to this?
3. What was celebrated most at the last funeral you attended?
4. What do hope people celebrate at your funeral?
5. Have you ever noticed your discontent "leaking" into your personal interactions? Relationships? Work?



Look It Up

1 Corinthians 1:18-20, Galatians 5: 22-25

6. What do you think Paul means by the term “perishing” here? What does this tell us about the permanence of worldly striving?
7. What do the qualities listed in Galatians 5 have in common?
8. What do you think Paul means by “the wisdom of the world?”
9. Is there a difference between the way of the cross and mere *passivity*? What is it?

Putting It All Together

10. Why do you think Andy kept repeating that the cross is not an “add-on” to our already full lives? What does that approach look like?
11. Now that you know what’s most important to you, what do you hope people celebrate at your funeral? Are you living in that direction?
12. What tensions do you feel when you choose to lose? What American values does the way of the cross rub against? Which of your family’s values?
13. When will it be hardest for you to choose to lose this week?

