



CENTERGROVE CHURCH

Scriptures for further study

Philippians 3:7-15 | Luke 9:23-26 | Matthew 10:37 | John 15:18-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In January of this year, Dr. Corts challenged the congregation to live with Dec. 31st in mind. A third of 2018 has now passed, and it's important to pause and look at the progress we are making as disciples of Jesus. In Luke 9:57-62, Jesus has been teaching those who are with Him what it means to be a true disciple of His and what it takes. Jesus finds it necessary in every case to challenge their understanding of what being a disciple involves. What aspect of commitment is Jesus describing in this passage? What does it mean to follow Christ? In what ways have you sacrificed to follow Jesus?
2. Dr. Corts described a "fork in the road" moment for three people in verses 57-62. Many people were interested in following Jesus. But, Jesus' response to them shows us that being personally interested in following isn't enough to make a person a faithful follower of Jesus. In verses 57-58, what did Jesus mean by "foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head"? What did Jesus imply to the first would-be follower that he would have to sacrifice to follow Him?
3. In verses 59-60, to the second would-be follower, Jesus shows us that even life commitments to parents (as good as that is) must take second place to a life-commitment to following Him. What sorts of problems and issues might this young man face if he didn't show up for the family funeral? What lesson or perspective was Jesus trying to get him to understand? Does this seem unfair? Why or why not?
4. To the final would-be follower, in verses 61-62, Jesus shows that even one's love for others close to them, must take second place to their love for Him. What did Jesus mean by "no one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God"? What aspect of commitment is Jesus emphasizing? How does Jesus relate His call to discipleship with proclaiming the gospel?
5. Beginning with the end in mind, what are the changes you need to make now, for yourself and for your family, to be all God designed and desires when the calendar moves to December 31? How does the way you spend your time reflect the priority Jesus has in your life? Which of the following is the most difficult for you to sacrifice—comfort, concerns or companions?
6. We found four basic life habits of true disciples—LOVE God together in regular worship. GROW together in a small group. SERVE the needs of others in the church and beyond. SHARE the Good News of Jesus with others. Which of the four needs your greatest attention for the remainder of the year? What will be your part of living out "LOVE UNITED"?