

## Lifeline

### Jesus is Our Savior from Confusion

Luke 9:23-27

*“Saying, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things & be rejected by the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised.’”* **Luke 9:22**

*“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, & with his wounds we are healed.”* **Isaiah 53:5**

**Jesus is providing us a lifeline out of confusion, not by telling us what to do in order to be saved, but what a saved person experiences.**

**Main Idea:** Jesus gives us a Lifeline out of Confusion by Clarifying our Calling

*“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself & take up his cross daily, & follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world & loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me & of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory & the glory of the Father & of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.’”* **Luke 9:23-27**

#### I. Jesus Calls Us to Count the Cost

*“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself & take up his cross daily, & follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world & loses or forfeits himself?’”* **Luke 9:23-25**

#### Three Realities of Following Jesus:

- **Self-Sacrificing (*Deny Yourself*):** Our life is based, not on self-fulfillment or self-interest, but on Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.
- **Cross-Bearing (*Take Up Your Cross*):** Be prepared to face all manner of opposition, persecution & rejection for following Jesus.
- **Attention-Focusing (*Follow Me*):** A continual command to keep our focus on Jesus and not our circumstances.

*“Come to me, all who labor & are heavy laden, & I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, & learn from me, for I am gentle & lowly in heart, & you will find rest for your souls.”* **Matthew 11:28-29**

*“For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world & loses or forfeits himself?”* **Luke 9:25**

#### II. Jesus Calls Us to Take Our Stand

*“For whoever is ashamed of me & of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory & the glory of the Father & of the holy angels.”* **Luke 9:26**

*“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”* **Galatians 1:10**

*“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”* **Proverbs 29:25**

#### III. Jesus Calls Us to Enjoy His Eternal Kingdom

*“But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”* **Luke 9:27**

#### Joys of God’s Eternal Kingdom:

- **Jesus** - Teacher, example, friend, savior; available & never abandons
- **Holy Spirit** – Comforter, helper, convicter, intercessor & empowerer
- **Victory** – Over sin, temptation, bondage
- **Transformation** – Everyday becoming conformed to Christ
- **Happiness** – Circumstances do not dictate our emotional health
- **Peace** – Rest is easier as life doesn’t revolve around or depend on us
- **Heaven** – Eternity with God free from pain, suffering, death

*“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”* **2 Corinthians 4:8-10**

*“In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.”* **2 Corinthians 7:4b**

**Truth:** God has given you a lifeline out of Confusion and his name is Jesus. Everybody here stands guilty before God for a lifetime of sinful thoughts, behaviors and words, but Jesus suffered under the wrath of God on the cross on your behalf so that you could be forgiven and reconciled to God. Now you are free to carry your own cross in the favor of God in service to His eternal kingdom! **Will it be hard at times?** Yes. **Will it hurt at times?** Like nothing you’ve ever experienced. **Will it be worth it?** Without Question!

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.”* **Romans 8:18**

#### Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Take Up Your Cross* – Clayton King (2011)
- *The Reason for God* – Timothy Keller (2009)