

# Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



## Key Takeaways:

1. Every role in the church is important, whether it's a frontline ministry or behind-the-scenes support.
2. True discipleship often involves sacrifice and perseverance.
3. We are called to support and encourage one another in our spiritual journeys and gospel-sharing efforts.
4. Compassion and vulnerability are crucial aspects of Christian community.

## Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon highlights Epaphroditus as a "messenger" who made great sacrifices. How does this challenge our perception of what it means to serve in the church?
2. Paul describes Epaphroditus as a "brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier." How can we foster this kind of partnership and unity in our church community?
3. Epaphroditus showed compassion even while he was suffering. How can we maintain concern for others when we're going through difficult times ourselves?
4. The sermon mentions the balance between self-care and putting others' needs first. How do we navigate this balance in our daily lives?
5. What are some ways we can honor and support those in full-time ministry or those making sacrifices for the gospel?
6. Pastor Ike asks, "What does it cost you and I today to be a Jesus follower?" How would you answer this question based on your own experiences?
7. How does Epaphroditus's story challenge our understanding of what it means to be persecuted for faith?

## Practical Applications:

1. Identify your current role in the church or Christian community. Reflect on how this role contributes to the overall mission of sharing the gospel.
2. Choose one person in ministry (local or global) to intentionally encourage and support this week. This could be through prayer, a note of encouragement, or practical help.
3. Share with the group a time when serving God or sharing your faith was more challenging than you initially expected. How did you persevere?
4. As a group, brainstorm ways to create a culture of honor and support for those serving in various capacities within your church.
5. Commit to praying for persecuted Christians around the world. Consider using a resource like Open Doors' World Watch List to guide your prayers.
6. Reflect on any areas where you might have become apathetic about sharing the gospel. Make a plan to take one step towards being more intentional in this area.
7. Practice vulnerability by sharing a current struggle with the group and allowing them to support and pray for you.

Closing Thought: "Your role is not the focus. Rather, the focus is on what you do with your role." How can we apply this principle to our daily lives and service to God this week?