

Lose Your Life for My Sake

Luke 9:23 25 *Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"*

I. The Choice *"IF any man would come after me...."*

- a. You cannot drift into discipleship
- b. Following Christ requires a sober, life-changing decision

II. The Christ *"If any man would come after **ME**...."*

- a. The decision is to follow a person---Jesus Christ
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:9** *"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

III. The Cost and the Cross *"...let him **DENY HIMSELF** and take up **HIS CROSS**, and follow me."*

- a. The call of Christ is not to deny ourselves *something*
- b. The call of Christ is to deny the SELF
- c. Nothing will dethrone the self except the enthroning of Jesus Christ
- d. The cross is the transaction point
- e. *In what ways am I experiencing the heavy burden of trying to remain in control of my own life?*
- f. The one place you can't stay in your Christian life is where you are

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Developing Detachment

1. Freedom

Galatians 5:1

John 8:29

2. Bondages

- What binds you: fear, worry, unforgiveness, anger?
- Where do these things come from?

3. Truth

John 8:32

John 8:29

Ephesians 5:10

2 Corinthians 5:9

God's liberating truth is not hard, except on our illusions

4. Happiness

- We give our happiness away to others
- We give our happiness away to material things
- We give our happiness away to circumstances

5. Detachment

- Dying to self
- Seeing life from a focal point outside of yourself
- Living centered in God
- Having one goal: to please God

Developing Detachment (cont.)

6. Empowering

- Do you empower people, things, and circumstances?
- Do you empower your reactions, self-centered perspective, and cultural values?
- Do you empower God and his kingdom within you?

Isaiah 9:7 Romans 14:17 Colossians 1:27

7. Balance

- Detachment is not being uncaring, unfeeling, or uninvolved
- Detachment is not denying your feelings or being “thick-skinned”
- Detachment is dying to yourself that you might be fully alive
- Detachment allows you to enter life redemptively
- Detachment allows you to suffer for God and yet not lose your joy

Hebrews 12:2 Matthew 5:11-12

8. Perspective

- Perspective determines reaction
- Do you see life from being God-centered or self-centered?
- The deeper our union with God, the clearer our perspective
- “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free”

Matthew 5:7