

Date:28/07/2024

Preacher: Sam Toms

Sermon Title: - Pilgrimage – Living for Jesus – empowered by commitment

Bible Reading: Luke 9:57-62

Sermon Notes -

A more complete Gospel – is more than just adding to our life, its gives us a NEW life

- Following Jesus is the hardest thing you will do (Luke 9:57-62)

- To live this new life is to Unsubscribe from our selfish nature

- Discipleship takes believers and makes them followers!

- Actively subscribing to Jesus values and desires.

The Reward for following Jesus is Jesus – his life, his purpose, his kingdom

Small Group Questions/Discussions –

The Christian life can at times bring a rush of excitement and emotion. However, just emotion and excitement does not always empower the believer beyond the experience itself. Similarly, many believers enjoy the emotional highs of faith but do not progress to true discipleship. Following Jesus is challenging and requires full commitment, and is not just an addition to one's life. Luke 9:57-62, 1 Peter 1:3, Ezekiel 36:26, and 2 Corinthians 5:17 articulate the new life and not just a new addition that becoming a disciple brings about. Authentic spiritual growth demands abandoning worldly values and fully committing to Jesus, which is both difficult and rewarding. The ultimate reward for following Jesus is a deep union with Him, leading to empowerment and a life of purpose.

Life Group Study Notes

- Begin by sharing a personal experience that brought you joy but did not necessarily lead to lasting empowerment or change.
- Briefly introduce the theme of living for Jesus and the comparison to fire twirling.

Scripture Reading:

- Luke 9:57-62
- 1 Peter 1:3
- Ezekiel 36:26
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion Questions:

1. Personal Reflections:

- Can you share an experience that brought you joy but didn't lead to long-term change or empowerment?
- How does this relate to your spiritual journey?

2. Understanding Commitment:

- What does Jesus' response to the men in Luke 9:57-62 teach us about the cost of following Him?
 - Why do you think Jesus emphasizes the need to leave everything behind to follow Him?
3. **Transformation Through Christ:**
- According to 1 Peter 1:3, what does new birth into a living hope mean for us?
 - How does Ezekiel 36:26 describe the transformation that God wants to work in us?
4. **New Identity:**
- How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 define our new identity in Christ?
 - What are some old habits or values that you need to "unsubscribe" from to fully embrace this new identity?
5. **Authentic Growth:**
- Why is authentic spiritual growth often slow and challenging?
 - Share a time when you experienced slow but meaningful growth in your faith.
6. **Full Commitment:**
- What does "all in" look like in your personal walk with Jesus?
 - How can we support each other in our life group to move from being believers to committed disciples?

Discuss practical ways to commit fully to following Jesus in everyday life. Share any areas where you feel God is calling you to deeper commitment and ask for prayer and support from the group.