



SESSION 3: DISCIPLESHIP

Mitchell Berean Church

Healthy, Unified and Firing on All Cylinders

Cylinder 2: Discipleship / Follow

Answering the call of Jesus
to leave all, we chase after
Him with reckless abandon



Open in Prayer

Pre-Video Scripture

Luke 9:23 *Then He said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.*

Watch the Video Together

Video is found on RightNow Media, YouTube
sand mitchellberean.com/bethechurch/

Small Group Discussion

Reread Luke 9:23

JESUS MAKES A RADICAL CALL ON OUR LIVES AND THE STAKES ARE LIFE AND DEATH!

Give up our own way - Deny a life of self interest or self fulfillment.

- Have you made the commitment to deny a self-directed life?
- Who is on the throne in your life? Who is in the power position? Are you doing what you do in your life to make yourself happy? Do your decisions revolve around getting what you want?
- What does it mean to give up your own life?
- How do you know you are operating out of self interest?

Self Denial is very difficult and many cannot handle a situation where they don't get what they want. They are not mature enough to handle things going a way they don't like.

Jesus knows that as sinful finite humans we will never achieve what we are capable of if we follow ourselves. Our lives are limited by who is in charge.

If you will put God on the throne of your life and follow Him you be able to do the great things God designed for you to do.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

See, the only way you can realize who you were intended to be, before the world was marred by sin, is to step off the throne of your life and allow God to take His rightful place of leadership in your life. God will lead you to become the person He intended you to be.

How can we become comfortable with not getting what we want? How do we build this into our character?

Take up our cross daily - A daily decision to embrace God's plan for your life.

Have you made the decision to make your decisions according to God's will?

How does God teach you this practice?

Many times this way of living is illustrated or talked about in terms of a life of vocational ministry. The way in which you live this out would be to follow God into the world of what we call ministry.

We must grow to understand that all of us are called to live this way and most of us will not be called to live a life of vocational ministry.

You are in the world to help the people around you experience Jesus.

What will help you keep this decision in focus as you begin each day?

The apostle Paul was put in prison a couple of times for preaching the gospel. He wrote the letter to the church in Philippi during one of these seasons. Watch what he writes regarding his situation:

Philippians 1:12-19 *And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. 13 For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. 14 And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear.*

15 It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. 16 They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. 17 Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. 18 But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. 19 For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

How should Paul have felt about being put in prison for preaching the gospel? Upset frustrated at God? God I was just doing what you told me to do and now I'm suffering for doing good.

How does Paul describe his situation? How does he frame up his imprisonment? He states it in terms of the mission. More people are hearing the gospel because I'm here in prison.

How would you see your current situation if you saw it the way Paul saw his situation?

Follow Jesus - Jesus will lead you as you travel through this life.

Jesus lived on Mission: Constant direction from God the Father. Empowered by the Spirit. Responding to needs around Him.

Do you start each day with the awareness that your day is not yours it is God's?

Would you be willing to allow God to take your life and produce the remarkable, inconceivable, miraculous things He wants to do?

Keep It/Lose It - Jesus drives home the reality of your situation and the situation we are all in. We can give our lives over to God or we can maintain control. The result of your choice is shocking: If you try to hang onto control you will lose your life in the end. If you give yourself over to God you will gain it in full measure.

To ignore the call of God on your life has dire consequences.

Whatever you do for yourself will be lost in the end.

Whatever you do for God will last for ever.

How do you guard against a self directed life?

How do you ensure that your motives are truly to allow God to direct you in this life?

How do you make sure that the mission of God is what you are working for?

Application

Nominate a family or individual to receive a Thanksgiving Meal. As a group, go deliver these meals and spend some time caring for the people you share the meals with.

Close in Prayer

Pray that God would help us to give up our own way, take up our cross and follow Him.

Pray for the individual needs within your group.