

**SERIES TITLE:** Becoming More Like Jesus

**PART FIVE:** SUFFERING LIKE JESUS

**TEXT:** LUKE 9:18-27

**INTRODUCTION.**

At this very moment, if your faith is in Christ alone, God is at work shaping you into the image of his Son (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). One day, in God's presence, you will be fully like him (1 John 3:2). Until that day of perfection, your growth in Christ-likeness won't happen accidentally. It takes intentionality. Through this seven-week study in Luke's Gospel, we are pursuing this together as an assembly of God's people.

**DISCUSSION.**

How do you think the average American views suffering and why?

**EXAMINATION.**

9:18-20

Why do you think Jesus asks about the crowd's opinion of him?

What would cause them to imagine he was John the Baptist or an ancient prophet?

What is significant about Peter's confession?

9:21-22

Why doesn't Jesus want them to tell anyone who he is?

How can Jesus be so plain about his death and yet the disciples don't seem to believe it?

9:23-27

What does Jesus mean about denying self and taking up your cross daily?

In what way do you lose your life when trying to save it and vice versa?

How can someone be ashamed of Christ to the point where Christ is ashamed of them?

What do you think Jesus is referring to when he says some will not taste death before seeing the kingdom?

**APPLICATION.**

- React to this statement. “If the settled state of your heart is that you don’t treasure Jesus and what he did for you on the cross, if you do not prize him above everything else, you are in fact ashamed of him.”
- How does the cross inform your understanding of suffering?
- In what way can God use suffering to bring about growth or gain in your life?
- Do you think it is important to let people know that there is a cost to following Jesus? Why or why not?
- Can you share examples of times Christians claim they are suffering for Jesus, when that is not the case?
- Consider Romans 8:18 (and context). How should this perspective of future glory be helpful in today’s suffering?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?