

Sermon Title: Life in the Kingdom: A Life of Surrender

Sermon Scripture: Luke 9:23-25



Sermon Discussion Guide (4/13)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Luke 9:23-25 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What does it mean to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?

Why is a disciple called to lose their life in Christ? Why is a disciple not called to be someone who seeks to save their life?

What does the word "daily" reveal to us about the nature of discipleship and surrender?

Read Matthew 11:28-30. Why are we called to come to Jesus? What will Jesus give to us? How is what Jesus gives to us different from what we might be able to earn or gain through our own efforts?

Application

Why do you think that so many people are drawn to the idea of the rugged individual, self-sufficient person, or lone-wolf persona?

How do excuses or self-deception keep you from recognizing your need for God's grace? How do excuses or self-deception lead you to think that, left to your own devices, you would make relatively good decisions and lead a relatively good life?

What is the difference between ordering your spiritual life from grace and ordering your spiritual life for grace? Do you think you are more likely to order your spiritual life from grace or for grace?

Pastor Matt concluded the sermon by encouraging us to take some time in prayer each day so that we can more fully surrender ourselves to Jesus. At what time of the day will you engage in this practice? Is there a specific Bible verse or prayer written by someone else that you will use to guide your time of prayer?

Prayer

For this week, you are invited to spend some time praying a prayer of surrender. If you would like to use the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer, it has been provided below.

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, You are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.