



Week 1

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: True Discipleship

Sermon Text: Luke 9:23-26

Group Week of: January 8, 2023

Sermon Date: January 15, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	The Suffering Messiah – Luke 9:18-22
Day 2	Self-Denial – Titus 2:11-15
Day 3	Dying to Gain Life – John 12:23-28
Day 4	The Rich Fool – Luke 12:13-21
Day 5	Shame & The Gospel – Romans 1:8-17

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

²³Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Textual Questions

- 1) In context, what does it mean to “deny themselves”?
- 2) In context, what does it mean to “take up their cross daily and follow me”?
- 3) How is it possible that someone can gain their life by losing it?
- 4) What does it look like to be ashamed of Jesus and His words?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) If you've heard the term "easy-believism" try to define it below. If not, wait for your life group meeting and discuss this with the rest of your group at that time.

- 2) Is it easy to be a *disciple* of Jesus? Is it easy to be a *believer* in Jesus? Are these things the same or different?

- 3) Although we are saved by faith, true faith must be willing to sacrifice all things for the sake of Christ. Jesus explains this truth through two pictures—self-denial and taking up one's cross daily. What things have you more easily denied yourself of as a disciple of Christ? What things do you fail to regularly deny yourself of as a disciple of Jesus? Share what makes things easy or hard to deny yourself of with your life group.

- 4) To peacefully live in a society with other humans, we all engage in little acts of self-denial quite frequently. However, we also set limits on the amount of sacrifice we are willing to endure for others. When Jesus says to "take up your cross daily", he is essentially telling us not to put a limit on our self-denial. If God asked you to give up your family, your home, your car, your job, or any other earthly thing, what would (what do) you have the greatest trouble giving up? Why?

- 5) What do you spend your days chasing? Most days, do you spend your time trying to gain the world? Or do you spend most of your time giving up your life as you follow Christ?

- 6) For many of us, being a disciple of Jesus is something we do in little bursts throughout the week, but it is not our daily, moment-by-moment practice. How can you more fully dedicate your days and moments to being a disciple of Christ?

- 7) Jesus also reminds us that if we are ashamed of Him or His words, He will be ashamed of us. Are you scared or ashamed to share the words of Christ at work, with your family, or with your friends? If so, talk about that shame with your group, repent of it, and ask God to give you courage to be a bold disciple of Christ.