



**Week 3**

**Series:** Equipped

**Sermon Title:** True Mission, True Discipleship

**Sermon Text:** Luke 9:18-27

**Group Week of:** February 25, 2024

**Sermon Date:** March 3, 2024

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

**The Text:** Luke 9:21-27

<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever 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) What is (are) the main lesson(s) you see Jesus giving to His disciples (and us) through this text?
- 2) Read verses 18-20. What is Jesus warning them not to tell and why?
- 3) What does carrying a cross daily represent?

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) What part of following Christ has been most challenging for you so far? Why?
  
- 2) When you are dealing with those challenging parts of following Christ, what helpful strategies have you employed in order to get through and overcome? (This does not mean you are successful *all the time*, but what are you doing when you are successful?)
  
- 3) What aspect of being a follower of Christ turned out different than you expected it to be when you first began your faith journey? What has been the most surprising part of following Christ?
  
- 4) The disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah and were committed to following Him. However, they did not fully realize who Jesus was, nor what following Him would truly mean for them. When you became a Christian, did anyone explain to you the *cost* of following Christ? If yes, did that help you in your faith? If no, when did you finally learn about the cost of following Christ?
  
- 5) The idea of “taking up our cross daily” is a profoundly important one. How would you explain this idea to a brand-new believer?
  
- 6) If we are unwilling to take up our cross and deny ourselves, we will die. What earthly pursuits have been the most tempting for you throughout your life? What do you find yourself pursuing? (Think of earthly things that you cling to when you get lax in keeping your eyes on Christ.)
  
- 7) Most of us fear the shame, reproach, rejection, and mocking laughter of the world more than we’d care to admit, and it keeps many of us from ever sharing the gospel with others. We often make excuses about lack of knowledge, but our true fear is the fear of man. Meditate for a while on the image of Jesus being falsely accused, mocked, beaten, flogged, and scorned. In your heart, do you want to join Him or to turn away from Him? If you wish to join Him, how can you use this image to help you with your own fear of rejection? If you wish to turn away, what is stopping you from wanting to join with Him? Identify that fear, confess it to the Lord, and ask Him to help you have a heart that wants to join Jesus in His sufferings.
  
- 8) Spend time confessing and repenting of any way in which you’ve failed to die to self and follow Christ.