



Weekend Worship

On Sunday, we focused on the story Jesus told about “The Cost of Being a Disciple” in Luke 14:25-33. If you haven’t had a chance to hear a sermon on this section, go on our website and listen to the message on August 16th on Luke 14:25-33.

This study will look at 3 sections from the Bible that talk about this same topic.

Intro

A “disciple” is a follower. If you are a Christian, you are a follower of Jesus, his disciple. A disciple of Jesus trusts in his saving work and his promises. Jesus’ disciple follows him in how they live.

Make a couple quick lists (these are not intended as “exhaustive lists” with right / wrong reasons):

5 things Jesus’ disciples trust:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

5 things Jesus’ disciples do:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Cross: for Jesus. for Jesus' disciples.

Mark 8:31-38 (NIV)

He [Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Consider... Mark chapter 8 is a pivotal chapter, as the journey to the cross begins in earnest. Up to this point, Jesus has shown power upon power, miracle upon miracle - all to establish his true identity for his disciples. But now that they're finally starting to grasp *who he is*, they're immediately confronted with *what he's come to do* because of who he is.

1. What makes Mark 8:31 such difficult news for the disciples to swallow?
2. In the context of the passion prediction, in Mark 8:33 what are:
 - a. "the concerns of God?"
 - b. What are "the concerns of men"?
 - c. How would you contrast the two?
3. Consider Peter's actions at this time. What did he miss in Jesus' prophecy?
4. What makes Mark 8:34-38 such difficult news for the disciples to swallow?
5. *Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Follow Jesus.* For you, how does this specifically look? (Instead of: "Don't do bad stuff" – list what you'd avoid. Instead of: "Trust Jesus and do good stuff" – list what times/areas of your life you need to grow in your trust and living for Jesus.)

a lifelong battle

Romans 7:14-25 (NIV)

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

- 1) The apostle Paul is instructing us about the make-up of a Christian and the results of it. Paul is troubled. Why? (Romans 7:15, 18-19)
- 2) Even when Paul wants to do good, what is right there? (Romans 7:21)
- 3) Christians sin. But Romans 7:17 tells us an important truth to remember. What is that truth?
- 4) So, if when I sin it's not the real me who's doing it, who is the real me?
- 5) As long as Paul looks at himself, he is filled with despair. To whom does Paul look for assurance? (Romans 7:25a)
- 6) What does this section (Romans 7) have to do with what Jesus said about being his disciple (deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus)?
- 7) A lie about being Jesus' disciple is: "Being Jesus' disciple is easy." How is this such a dangerous lie?

continue to work out

Philippians 2:12-16 (NIV)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” [Deuteronomy 32:5] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life.

1) In this short section from Paul, what does Paul tell you that:

a. GOD is doing and promising?

b. you should be doing?

2) We know that our salvation is God’s doing alone – from beginning to end. Sometimes, we have a tendency to think that our lives as his disciples is up to us alone. How is this unbiblical and dangerous?

3) Pick a Christian example and explain... Pick a Christian (one you know or know of... from the Bible or Church history). Explain how this Philippians section is/was evident in their life.

4) Pick one and explain:

a. The Christian life is not easy.

b. The ways that Christians live their faith are not all the same.

⇒ Based on what God’s taught you in what we’ve studied today, what should YOU:

DO? (and NOT DO?)

PRAY?

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.

Prayer

Dear LORD, in your grace you have made me your disciple. Thank you for placing my trust in you. Increase my faith. Bless me as I strive to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow you. Amen.