

Theme: Disciples recognize that true life – both now and in eternity - comes from denying self, picking up our cross, and following Christ.

I. Intro – Seminal moments

- A. 9/11 – everything changed – defining moment
- B. Today’s text – defining moment
- C. Peters revelation, but Jesus’ teaching as well

II. The Background

- A. Who am I? – The Christ!
 - 1. Who do people say I am?/response (v27; 28)
 - 2. Key question/Peter’s inspired response (v29)
- B. The Christ – Suffering Servant!
 - 1. The message of the cross (v31)
 - 2. Peters foolish un-inspired response! (v32)
- C. God’s way vs. Satan’s way
 - 1. The Satanic influence (v33)
 - 2. God’s way of cross different than man’s (v33)

III. The Call to Discipleship

- A. A call for ALL disciples – not just a few

- 1. Call’s whole crowd over (v34)
 - 2. A key requirement of discipleship (v34 – must)
- B. The three requirements to be a disciple
 - 1. Deny self – not just things – self! (v34)
 - 2. Take up cross – radical call! (v34)
 - 3. Follow me (v34)
 - 4. This must be done daily (Luke 9:23)

C. The path to true life

- 1. Paradox of life (v35; John 12:24-25; v34-35 - for)
- 2. This is why denial, cross necessary

D. The eternal perspective of a disciple

- 1. The worth of a ψυχή (vv36-37)
- 2. The eternal judgment (v38)

IV. Am I Answering the Disciples Call?

- A. Do we recognize this is not optional for believers?
 - 1. This call is not for a few, but for all
 - 2. There is NO other way to follow Christ
- B. Do we see the radical nature of discipleship

1. Bonhoeffer quote
 2. Disciples are not their own – they deny self
 3. Disciples are dead men walking
 4. Disciples follow Christ – not the world
- C. Do we see the eternal stakes?
1. If we choose our self, our life we lose all
 2. Who will defend me at the judgment? (PP)
 3. Jim Elliot quote

Disciples and Their Cross

Mark 8:27-38

August 13, 2006

I Have Decided / Baptism

Numbers 6

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:24-25

When Christ calls a man he bids him come and die – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. - Jim Elliot.