

Be A Loser

Be A Loser!

Key idea:

The only way to gain Christ is to lose self and to open our lives to how, what, when, and where God is going.

Key text:

Mark 8:31-38

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Key points:

1. We must be willing to let Jesus live through us, killing our own selfish desires and pride.
2. Sometimes we know exactly what God is saying and just like Peter we do not like it.
3. Jesus must go to the cross. It is the fulfillment of all scripture and prophesy.

4. Jesus can not take the easy way out and neither can we.
5. There are times when we get too entrenched in the daily grind and see only earthly things never looking or thinking about the things of God.
6. The only way to have your “best life now” is to lose it and put God’s plans and purposes ahead of yours.
7. As a Christian you are called to suffer, you are called to be like your master Jesus and he suffered unto death for us. So we will have to suffer for his name.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Did anything stand out from the teaching that I found particularly interesting or useful?
2. How do I feel about the idea of dying to self so that Christ may be glorified?
3. How often do I look at things through a practical worldly perspective instead of a heavenly one?
4. When God speaks to me do I listen or am I inclined to rationalize or justify my actions and move on?
5. Why must I suffer as a Christian? Shouldn't I have my best life now? If I am a “Victorious Christian” I should never suffer, right?
6. What cost do I pay to be a Christian? Is there a cost to my Christianity? Should there be a cost to Christianity?
7. Can I trade anything for my soul? Whose approval is most important to me?
8. Should I have to lose my wants and desires for the namesake of Jesus?
9. Do I truly believe that the Gospel is the greatest news that I will ever know or share with others?
10. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

**Preview of next week:
Sit - Our Position In Christ**