

February 27, 2022

Disciple's Paradox

Luke 9:23-27

Paradox: a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true. We use paradoxes often when we talk. Sayings like, less is more, I can resist anything but temptation, or youth is wasted on the young, are all paradoxes. Paradox is also a great descriptor of the life we are called to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We see this throughout the Sermon on the Mount. The meek will inherit the earth, first will be last, rejoice when reviled, love your enemies, and others. Perhaps the greatest paradox though is found in Luke 9:24, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." How can one live if one is dead? Before Jesus states the paradox, He lists three identifying marks of a disciple so we can understand the paradox we are called to live.

Additional Verses:

Matthew 5:23-28

Romans 10:9

Ephesians 4:20-24

Outline:

1. Disciples are called to self-denial.
2. Disciples are called to take up our cross.
3. Disciples are called to follow Jesus.

Study Questions:

1. Why is self-denial so difficult? How does the world encourage people to give into self?
2. How are you denying yourself for Jesus? If you are not, what steps can you take?
3. What do you think when someone says, "it's my cross to bear?" What is Jesus teaching us with that statement? How does your life reflect what Jesus means?
4. In our Wednesday night study of Psalm 119:161-168, four words were defined: harass, discriminate, oppress, and persecute. What emotions do these words evoke? Why does suffering scare believers? What is your willingness to suffer for Jesus? How does this compare with the suffering Jesus has called us to?
5. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?