

Death To Selfie

Week 1: "Death Wish"

Weekly Summary: Jesus' words shock us as much now as they shocked his first followers back then. You must die. You must deny yourself. You must crucify the old you in order to find the real you. Jesus confronts us with the flesh's biggest foe—self. But he promises us true life in the kingdom of God, something so glorious and beautiful that every human being should wish to die to themselves and follow him.

- ❖ Mark 8:31-32 - He 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.

- ❖ Mark 8:32-33 - 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."

- ◆ Dying was a "**non-negotiable**" for Jesus.

- ❖ Mark 8:34 - 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.

- ◆ Dying (to self) is "**non-negotiable**" for Jesus' followers.

- ❖ Mark 8:35, 38 - For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ... 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."

Jesus' Point

When it comes to “dying” it’s not a matter of **if** but **where**.

- ❖ John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

- ❖ Mark 8:36-37 - 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?

D2S Big Idea

God will put up with a lot of things in the human heart,
but being **2nd** is't **1** of them.

Points to Ponder

1. If we are honest, at first glance Jesus’ reaction to Peter’s words in Mark 8:32-33 seem harsh. Why do you think that might be our first thought? Why was Jesus’ rebuke both needed and so strong? (Read Matthew 4:1-11 if you are looking for more insight.)
2. At the Olympics, winning a silver medal is a big deal - in other words, 2nd place is something to celebrate. However when it comes to your life, Jesus doesn’t want to win the silver medal of your heart. What people, things, or ideals are fighting Jesus right now for 1st place in your life? In order to answer the question consider the following:
 - What life events are the obstacles or “rocks” hindering you from planting a deeper **Gather** root? (AKA...are there things in your life that are more important than gathering for worship regularly?)
 - Are you willing to compromise daily devotional and the **Grow** root for time on Facebook, answering work emails, or tackling your to-do list?
 - If you aren’t connected to a seasonal or life **Group** group, what is it that’s keeping you away?
 - If someone looked at your calendar and your checking account, would they find a deeply planted **Give** root or would they find other things that have 1st place your heart?
 - Do you hesitate to **Go** and invite your friends or co-workers to church? If so, why?

- What personally tempts you most when it comes to avoiding a potential cross?
 - What do you desperately want to hold on to or what would you be willing to forfeit your soul for despite Jesus' claim to all authority?
3. Jesus' message here is not all gloom and doom. Discuss with your group, spouse, or family the significance of these words "whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it". What's the good news of this verse in your own words?

Homework For Next Week: Mark 10:17-31

*"If we do not die to ourselves, we cannot live to God,
and he that does not live to God, is dead."*

~ George MacDonald