



April 24, 2016 – Pastor Stephen Mason
SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE

Series: “Who Do You Say I Am?”

Message: “Follower of ‘The Way’ or Admirer of ‘The Way’”

Connect

Christ loves you just the way you are. Spiritual growth won't earn you more of His love. But Christ also has a vision for who you can become: more peaceful as you trust Him in stressful circumstances, more loving toward the difficult people in your life, more able to overcome your bad habits. Think about the person you are now and a package of strengths and weaknesses. Don't be embarrassed to say something good about yourself!

1. What is one thing you like about who you are today?
2. What is one thing about yourself you'd like to change?

Engage

Before the early believers were ever referred to as “Christians,” they were called “Followers of the Way.” This came from Jesus' statement in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth and the life.”

Life in God's Kingdom today is only available to Jesus' followers (ie. disciples).

Read Luke 9:23-27

According to this passage:

1. What are the costs of following Jesus (ie. Discipleship)? (See the Study Notes.)
2. What are the costs of not following (ie. Non-discipleship)?
3. What costs of following Jesus have been the hardest for you to pay?
4. Do you tend to be more troubled by the costs of following Jesus or more joyful about the benefits? Why do you think that is the case?

Apply

Below are some possible steps you could take to let Jesus become your ‘personal trainer.’ Which of them do you sense Jesus is inviting you to take for the next month? Share this with your group.

- **Prayer.** Set aside time to pray about letting Jesus train you in how to live. You might try just five minutes a day when you get up in the morning or when you arrive at work. You could pray, “Jesus train me to live today. Train me to think your thoughts. Train me to do what You would do.”
- **Bible Reading.** On page 2 is a plan for reading through the Gospel of John in thirty days. Consider circling words and underline verses that resonate with you. When a word or verse strikes you, pause and ask God, “What are you saying to me, here and now, through these words?”

Study Notes

Take up His cross daily (Luke 9:23). Roman law declared that a prisoner sentenced to the cross gave up all rights as a citizen and became owned completely by the state. Similarly, we give up all rights when we come to Christ as a disciple. We belong to God, who has bought us at the price of Jesus' blood. We give God the right to decide which of our needs and desires He will meet, and when and how He will do so. Entrusting our deepest needs and desires to God often feels like death. The "me" we thought we were dies so that the "me" God created can fully live. Giving up our rights is scary! It makes sense only if God is trustworthy.

GOSPEL OF JOHN READING PLAN

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 John 1:1–18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16 John 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 John 1:19–51 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17 John 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3 John 2:1–11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18 John 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4 John 2:12–25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19 John 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5 John 3:1–21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20 John 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6 John 3:22–36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21 John 14:1–14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7 John 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22 John 14:15–31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8 John 5:1–15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23 John 15:1–17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9 John 5:16–47 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24 John 15:18–27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10 John 6:1–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25 John 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11 John 6:25–71 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26 John 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12 John 7:1–24 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27 John 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13 John 7:25–53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28 John 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14 John 8:1–30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29 John 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15 John 8:31–59 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30 John 21 |