

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Seah
Title: Go Die
Text: Luke 9:18-24

Introduction

Luke 9:18-24 (NIV)

18Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

19They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." **20**"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. **22**And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

23Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24**For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

People's perception of Christ differs from individual to individual. (vs 19)

However, we come into His saving knowledge the same way by acknowledging that Jesus is 'The Christ of God' (vs 20).

Romans 10:9-10 (MSG)

Romans 10:9-10 (MSG): Say the welcoming word to God—"Jesus is my Master"—embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation.

10 With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!"

Content

From birth, we have been conditioned with this message: Preserve your life, protect your possessions, sustain your pleasure & secure your future.

Deny Myself

Self-denial is contrary to our human nature. Self-denial is not self-rejection.

It is the denial of everything rooted in the old life, governed by the carnal values and motives. It is the rejection of "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..."

1 John 2:15-17 (MSG)

1 John 2:15-17 (MSG) - Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father.

16 Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him.

17 The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

Take Up My Cross

The reason why Jesus commanded us to carry up our cross is because we have defined life too superficially and that we're barely touching the life as God intends us to have.

Phil 2: 5- 8 (MSG)

Phil 2: 5- 8 (MSG) Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!

8 Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

So how do we take up our cross?

- Through surrendering of our will,
- Through embracing unavoidable suffering,
- Through conscious sacrificing.

Galatians 2:20 (MSG)

Galatians 2:20 (MSG) –I identified myself completely with him. Indeed, I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God.

Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 12:24 (MSG)

John 12:24 (MSG) - 'Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over.'

The Subsequent Process

Taking up our cross unearths the deep seated lies buried in our belief system.

There are at least 3 areas where lies are hidden:

- i. Areas where we are overly sensitive;
- ii. Areas where we are strongly tempted;
- iii. Areas in which you have inordinate fears.

What are some of these lies ?

- i. About people - “People are generally bad”
- ii. About temptation - “Everybody else is doing it” or “Nobody will know”
- iii. About change - “I’ve always been this way”

{ God has the power to change our mindset, transform our perspective and cause us to overcome our character flaw. }

Conclusion

The result of embracing this privilege is an exciting, a real and a multiplied life (Luke 9:24) !

Romans 8 : 10-11 (MSG)

Romans 8 : 10-11 (MSG) - But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you

that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

What is the picture of a believer who dies daily?

Galatians 5:22- 23, 26 (MSG)

Galatians 5:22- 23, 26 (MSG) - **22-23** But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic

holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Vs26 - That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

We become the original God created us to be!