

Celebrating Surrender (Matthew 16:21-28)

Further reflection discussion material

Intro:

The sermon last Sunday focused on what the Bible says about being fully surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In his sermon, Drew highlighted three key considerations:

1. Recognise that suffering is central to the life of a disciple (vs 21 and 24)
 - a. Reflecting on the necessity of Christ's suffering on the Cross for our salvation AND
 - b. Reflecting on what it means for us to suffer for the cause of the gospel
2. Don't side line the master (vs 22-23)
 - a. The account recorded in the bible text highlights two key things – disciples would walk behind the master as a sign of surrender and disciples must ensure they do not displace the master
 - b. Jesus orders Peter to get back in line behind him – to assume the position of being a disciple rather than the 'master' (vs 23)
3. Lose your life and find your life (vs 25ff)
 - a. Self denial is crucial to discipleship – dethroning self and enthroning Jesus is what we are called into.
 - b. Conversely, letting go of selfish ambition and self interest and falling in line with the way of Jesus, is the way to finding real, life changing fulfillment.

For discussion:

1. As you consider each of the three considerations above,
 - a. Which one appears to you to be the one you are getting most traction in and with in this current season of your discipleship?
 - b. which ONE presents the biggest challenge to you personally?
2. Digging a little deeper,
 - a. What do you think might be involved in 'taking up your cross?' As you reflect on this, consider what it means for Jesus to say 'suffer for my sake'. What things in your life might this connect with? As you reflect on this, do you think it is appropriate for Christians to speak of 'carrying my cross' when referring to general challenges in life? Why or why not?
 - b. As you reflect on vs 22 and the action of Peter, what is being said about how we approach contemporary leadership and service? And what is being said about the implications of suffering in the life of a disciple THEN and NOW?
 - c. In vs 23, Jesus identifies the words and action of Peter as being the work of Satan through Peter; what does this say to you about the work of Satan in contemporary society and the possible influences of Satan on the way disciples of Jesus live out their lives?

For Reflection and Action:

- a. How will you begin to celebrate surrendering to Jesus
- b. How will you abide more deeply in the Father and his love
- c. Are you financially surrendering to Jesus
- d. Are you struggling to pray regularly – ask someone to hold you accountable.
- e. Are you in a life group or Gospel Community – YES – wonderful. Decide now to raise with your group who you might adopt and encourage to join your group.
- f. If you are not in a LG or GC and would like to join a small community of people who are seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus – get on the GWAC app and let us know. tick the box on the connect card.
- g. Have you registered for the GWAC summer conference?