

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: Vintage Faith
Title: Following Hard After Jesus
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Luke 14:25-34
Date: October 22, 2017



(The material below is a resource from which you can select what will be most appropriate, challenging and transforming for your Life Group. There is far more material below than you could possibly tackle in one session. As you sense the Holy Spirit guidance, you will be able select the right material for your group.)

DISCUSSION

REVIEW:

The Punch Line: ***"Pruning is painful...but the payoff is incredible*** – intimacy with God, (living) a life of fruitfulness... the work of your Heavenly Father growing (in) you...and walking in the fullness for what you are created." (John 15:2, 6)

With Eyes Wide Open: Luke 14:25-34

- **Following Jesus is not for the faint:** What does following really involve?
 - ⇒ Jesus comes before your family (14:26)
 - ⇒ Cross-bearing: embracing complete and utter death (14:27)
 - ⇒ Renunciation: giving up everything (14:33)
- **What is FOLLOWING?** What are the consequences, the costs?
 - ⇒ Death of convenience – "Don't cramp my style Jesus." (Luke 18:18-23)
 - ⇒ Where is your treasure? A "re-ordering of the heart" (Genesis 22 – Abraham and Isaac)
 - ⇒ We can't squeeze our affections with our stuff alongside Jesus. We are designed to be the shrine of God, and God alone.
- **What's an Idol? Time for recalibration of inordinate places?**
 - ⇒ Success – which kingdom do we serve?
 - ⇒ More – When is enough, *enough*?
 - ⇒ Possessed by our families – Are we serving our kids in the way that will best prepare them for a God-honoring life, or are we worshipping them. Are we setting up them to be following hard after Jesus when they are out from under our roofs?
- **Losing and Finding:**
 - ⇒ Upside down thinking – Matthew 10:38-39 says, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
 - ⇒ "We can't just tweak that worldview to make it Christian...we have to die to it."

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DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS TO WRESTLE WITH:

- Aren't we taking this "pruning" stuff too seriously? Does Jesus **really** mean this stuff?
- Are we convinced that painful pruning provides the payoff being promised?
- What is your Mount Moriah pilgrimage?
- How does this message influence our approach to South Abbotsford's three priority areas?
 1. Prayer Engagement
 2. Holy Spirit Empowerment
 3. Difference-making Faith