

LUKE'S MIDTERM Who Do You Think I Am?

The Right Answer, Wrong Assumptions:

Luke 9:18-27, 4:5-8, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, James 4:13-17

Jesus knew that:

- ▶ Everyone wants a **Savior**, few can handle a **Lord**.
- ▶ We would always focus more on this **world** than **heaven**.
- ▶ We would always focus more on **ourselves** than **others**.
- ▶ We would prefer to be **blessed** than to be **used**.

So, what does “taking up our cross” mean?

- ▶ It's simply a picture of **self-denial**.
- ▶ It's a **daily** decision, not a **one time** prayer.
- ▶ It's accepting our **assignment** in the **Kingdom**.

Answers to the Midterm:

Luke 9:28-36, 2 Peter 1:12-18, John 3:16-18, 14:6-7

Jesus will never be a **part** of our **lives**.

Jesus is, and always will be:

- ▶ **God's Son**
- ▶ **God's only plan**
- ▶ **The Lord we follow**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 6, 2011

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?

MY STORY

1. Looking at the four things Jesus knows about us from this weekend's teaching, which one are you challenged by the most?

2. Contentment is a key ingredient to self-denial and carrying out our assignment. How do you think most people define contentment?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Submission is a key element of understanding and putting "self-denial" into action. It's one of those terms that is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. How do the following verses help us better understand what submission is and isn't?

Matthew 26:39

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." [NIV]

Matthew 26:42

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." [NIV]

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. [NIV]

Philippians 2:1-4

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, [2] then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. [3] Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4] Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. [NIV]

John 13:6-10

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

[7] Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

[8] "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

[9] "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

[10] Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." [NIV]

2. This weekend, we heard we often know the right answer about who Jesus is but have wrong assumptions about what he expects from us and what he will do in our lives. As you read the stories of the rich young ruler and Peter, identify the wrong assumptions they made and how Jesus responded to them.

Matthew 19:16-30

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

[17] "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

[18] "Which ones?" the man inquired.

Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, [19] honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

[20] "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

[21] Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

[22] When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

[23] Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. [24] Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

[25] When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

[26] Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

[27] Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

[28] Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. [29] And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. [30] But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first. [NIV]

John 21:15-23

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

[16] Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

[17] The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. [18] I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else

will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." [19] Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

[20] Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") [21] When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

[22] Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." [23] Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" [NIV]

Can you think of any examples in your own life of having the “right answer, but wrong assumption” about what Jesus expects or what he will do?

3. Being content is key when it comes to accepting and embracing our assignment. Contentment is also one of those terms that is often misunderstood. What does Philippians 4:10-14 say about contentment and how we attain it?

Philippians 4:10-14

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. [11] I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. [12] I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. [13] I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

[14] Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. [NIV]

How might verse 13 be taken out of context?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there anything you particularly want to remember or need prayer for?

2. We heard this weekend about the importance of not only focusing on God's blessing, but also on how God wants to use us. How are you processing that statement?

Anything you want to add or change about your perspective of God's blessings and how he wants to use you?

Prayer Requests:

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