

When God Leads...Burn Your Map!

The Two Stories That Started It All:

Genesis 6-8 & 12

The Road We All Have In Common:

John 15:1-25 Matthew 5:13-16 10:16-20 16:24-27 Philippians 2:1-16 Galatians 2:20

Following God's map will:

- ✓ **Set you apart from the crowd**
- ✓ **Encourage others to follow**
- ✓ **Bring salvation to others**

Following God's map can get:

- ✓ **Uncomfortable**
- ✓ **Unpopular**
- ✓ **Incredibly painful**

Two Questions We're Left With:

Romans 12:1-2 James 4:1-17

- ❶ Do we trust God enough to give him our **future**?
- ❷ Is our purpose to make **God's name great**, or ours?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 23, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting in this week's teaching?

MY STORY

1. What's your first response to the statement that as a follower of Christ you are called to "deny yourself"?

What might be some examples of being willing to "deny yourself"...

... at work?

... with your friends?

... at home?

2. Can you think of a time you saw someone sacrifice their personal preference to serve another or to stand up for what was right no matter the cost (beside your mom)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Denying ourselves to follow Jesus can be no small challenge, as we heard this weekend. What hope do the following verses give that living a life based on God's map instead of our own is well worth it?

Matthew 5:16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

Can you think of a time in your life when the truth of these Scriptures came alive because you did the tough thing? If so, explain.

Which one would you say is most important to you?

2. This week we heard Chris say that it's important to take a serious look at what we're allowing on our map and in our life. The apostle Paul makes a similar statement to the church of Ephesus, speaking not only of things to stop but also of things that need to be done. As you read Ephesians 4:29-5:3 &

5:15-16, jot down what Paul tells the Ephesians to stop and start doing.

Ephesians 4:29-5:3 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Ephesians 5:15-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Looking back at what you just wrote, can you think of any examples of God working in your life that made you stop or start one of the items Paul stated?

3. For many of us, denying ourselves to follow Jesus isn't just a matter of not wanting to, it's a matter of not quite understanding how and what it takes. What insight and encouragement does God give us to continue to deny ourselves and to be willing to "explore off the map" for him?

Matthew 11:28-29 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Galatians 2:20 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:5 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Which of these verses do you think people tend to forget the most?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Based on this week's teaching or homework, is there any action or attitude that you'd like to stop or start?

2. This week we heard that by following God's map, we will encourage others to follow him. Is there any person you know your life is having an impact on that you'd like to pray for this week?

Praise/Prayer Requests:



REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience” - Oct. 28-30

Lookin' for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic man's weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as a man following God. The weekend will also include plenty of man event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don't delay! Register online at: northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend.

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