

***Taste and See!***  
**Joy in the Sacrifice**  
Sunday, January 9, 2022

**Luke 9: 18-25 NLT**

<sup>18</sup>One day Jesus left the crowds to pray alone. Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” <sup>19</sup>“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other ancient prophets risen from the dead.” <sup>20</sup>Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Messiah sent from God!” <sup>21</sup>Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone who he was. <sup>22</sup>“The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,” he said. “He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

<sup>23</sup>Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. <sup>24</sup>If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>25</sup>And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?

**1. Understand the Cost** (vs. 22-23)

Mark 10:45 The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.  
Matthew 8: 19-22 “Teacher I will follow you!” “Foxes have dens, birds have nests, the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

**2. See the Gain as Greater**

2 Corinthians 5:17 The old life is gone, a new life has begun!  
Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher; but when fully trained will be like his teacher.  
John 8: 31-32 Abide in my word, know truth. Truth will make you free.

**3. Seek God’s Face, Not His Hand**

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people will humble themselves, seek my face, turn from wicked ways...I will hear from heaven.  
Psalm 9:10 You do not forsake those who seek You.  
Psalm 27:8 You have said “seek my face.” My heart says Your face I seek.

**Conclusion:** There is a hefty cost to follow after Jesus. May we have right understanding of the cost so we also know the great value and joy in our sacrifice. Let us look to the greater things we gain as we follow after Jesus. There is no earthly treasure that can compare to the joy of living for God and serving Him from a place of devoted love.

**LIFE GROUP LESSON**  
**Joy in the Sacrifice**  
Week of January 9 – January 15, 2022

**Ice Breaker:** Do you see sacrificing for God as a loss or a gain? Why?

**Read Luke 9: 18-25.**

1. Why question did Jesus ask the disciples? Why? (v. 18)
2. What was His second question? (v. 20)
3. What is the difference between the two questions?
4. How do you answer Jesus’ question?
5. What does Jesus reveal next? (v.22)
6. Why does He share about His rejection, death, and resurrection in this moment?
7. Read v. 23. What does Jesus mean in this statement?
8. What does it look like for you, to take up your cross daily and follow Him?
9. Read vs. 24-25. What does Jesus mean in this statement? What do you lose and what will you save?
10. Have you experienced either aspect of this teaching? How so?
11. Read Mark 10:45. What was the sacrifice for Jesus? How does His sacrifice directly benefit you? Could you have this benefit without His sacrifice? Was there joy in His sacrifice? How so?
12. Read Matthew 8: 19-22. What sacrifice is required to follow Jesus?
13. Why does God call us to sacrifice? What do you learn in your sacrifice?
14. What motivates you to sacrifice? Obligation? Love?
15. How does it feel to sacrifice when motivation is out of obligation? How does it feel when you are moved by love?
16. Read Luke 6:40 & John 8: 31-32. What do we gain as we follow Christ? Is this greater than what we sacrifice? Have you tasted to see?
17. Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. In what ways is God asking us to sacrifice? What is the blessing as we do?
18. Read 27:8. Is the head or heart responding? Do you think there would be greater joy felt in our heart or head response to God’s commands?
19. Is seeking God’s face and tasting of His goodness worth the sacrifice?

**Point to ponder:** To seek after God and follow Jesus, it will cost us-time, energy, resources, money, and our independence. Is the sacrifice worth the gain? Only you can answer that question. Seek and you find. Taste and you will see!