

WE MUST DIE

>>>> Last 3 weeks we have looked at what Jesus has done for us:

- # 1. CAME TO US, Seek and save the lost
- # 2. CAME TO SERVE, and not be served
- # 3. CAME TO DIE, (suffer and sacrifice)

This week we will look to see what we are called to do: WE MUST DIE!

IT MAY SEEM LIKE A RE-RUN,

BUT THERE IS A SUBTLE YET DISTINCT DIFFERENCE.

The difference is before we CAN suffer for Christ we must DIE TO SELF.

IT IS IN DYING TO SELF (WANTS & DESIRES) you make way for GOD'S Divine plan to be lived out by His Chosen disciples. THIS MUST OCCUR

T/S AS Christians we experience two deaths:

- 1. To our "OLD SELF": BORN AGAIN**
- 2. Daily death to self, a LIFELONG PROCESS as the New self comes to life: SANCTIFICATION**

WE MUST DIE TO SELF, it is the foundational requirement to be a disciple of Our Lord Jesus. **DEATH TO SELF IS THE FIRST STEP IN FOLLOWING JESUS**

<<<<< Someone wrote: *The concept of “dying to self” is found throughout the New Testament. It expresses the true essence of the Christian life, in which we take up our cross and follow Christ. Dying to self is part of being born again; the old self dies and the new self comes to life (John 3:3–7). Not only are Christians born again when we come to salvation, but we also CONTINUE TO DIE TO SELF as part of the process of sanctification. As such, dying to self is both a one-time event and a lifelong process.*

T/S Today we are going to look at Luke 14 :27-33. We will see it is very similar to last week in Luke 9 where Jesus says you must deny yourself and pick up his cross daily and follow Him.

- Please ask God to grant us insights to where we are lacking and grab our hearts to redirect our path for His command to die daily as we pick up our cross and follow Him.

LET'S PRAY

T/S - So let's look in today's text : (Luke 14:25-33)

Context: # Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die
And the crowds are getting larger

"Luke records in chapter 14 of his Gospel that large crowds were following Jesus seemingly for the wrong reasons, They were amazed by His miracles, feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, casting out demons, and so on... but Jesus knew they were not fully committed to His mission. That is when Jesus gave them something new to think about

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

UNPACK THE STORY:

The overarching message; DEATH TO SELF IS NECESSARY and to COUNT THE COST of discipleship.

#..... But this is not about our wants, BUT Jesus's ABSOLUTE requirements and demands and commands.

THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE HIS INVITATION TO COME TO HIM, AND THEN ONCE BORN AGAIN, THEY ARE HIS GUIDE AND STANDARD OF HOW TO FOLLOW HIM.

T/S Let's look at this more closely:

■ 3 times Jesus says , "you CAN NOT be my Disciple "

A. 1. v.26 regarding relationships and self: hatred is a figurative comparison. Jesus must be supreme love that any other loving relationship would seem like hatred in comparison. **NO OTHER AFFECTION EQUAL OR GREATER TO CHRIST.**

2. Example: Abraham / son

B. v. 27 picking up cross to die (daily) to self : (own plans and desires)

1. God's plans become supreme in your life

2. Example: parable of the feast (oxen, property, marriage) EXCUSES

3. **James 4:13**

C. v. 33 possessions:

1. Can't serve two masters, you will love one and hate the other

2. All we have becomes His: hand over all of our bank accounts & deeds

T/S Jesus also cautioned the crowd to **COUNT THE COST**

1. Jesus **TURNS AND LOOKS AT ALL OF THEM**

2. He knows many are only caring for their needs

3. He is seeking disciples who will pay the cost to follow

4. He is concerned about the outcome and the carnage of false followers

5. He is not a false recruiter, but a Truth teller

JESUS IS AWARE AND FAMILIAR OF FALSE FOLLOWERS

1. John 6: "I am the true bread, you must eat my flesh and drink my blood to have life.

2. Parable of the soils

JESUS HAS A WARNING AND CALL TO REPENTANCE FOR THE SUPERFICIAL FOLLOWERS

1. "Those who try to save their life will lose it

2. Revelation 3 – lukewarm will be spit out of His mouth, therefore repent

3. Titus 1:16 – those who claim God but deny Him by their deeds (detestable, disobedient, worthless.

4. 2nd Peter 2:20 – who have returned to sin

THE WARNINGS OF FALSE FOLLOWERS ARE RELEVANT NOW

READ: The Gospel According to Jesus

TWO BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF COUNTING THE COST

A. RICH YOUNG RULER

B. PETER: JOHN 21

THE OVERALL MESSAGE: "THE ONLY THING JESUS WANTS FROM US IS EVERYTHING" – D.P.

T/S Now as Christians we will experience two deaths. The first death to our “old self”. The second is a process of dying daily to self. DEATH TO SELF BRINGS LIFE IN CHRIST.

A. First death: death of old self “Born Again”

1. Salvation, Born Again by the will of God, by the power of God.
2. One time event, and eternally kept by God

Galatians 2:19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3. We become a new creation *2nd Corinth. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. [a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

4. Power of sin and death destroyed at the cross

5. Gift of the Holy Spirit given to live for Christ and like Christ, POWER AND GRACE

6. It is when you are baptized in Christ.

7. Act of Baptism demonstrate obedience and death to self as well as symbolically the spiritual reality

Romans 6, best illustrates this: *1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self [a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

T/S - Now that we are saved, there is a daily war with our flesh and this is why we must die daily to ourselves, for the life of Christ to be lived out through us.

B. Second death: Daily death of self “Sanctification”

1. Only followers can die, occurs after "Death to your OLD SELF"
2. Not a one-time event, but a process, daily submission to God, (sanctification)

3. Dying to self allows the operation of Gods desires and will to be lived through as you let go of your plans, priorities and possessions

T/S – So moving along, the question would be “How does one die to self daily?” We will see that God has provided all that we need to die to self and we too play a part in accomplishing this death and new life in Christ, for the glory of God.

A. WHAT GOD SUPPLIES:

1. **GRACE:** *2nd Corinthians 9:8 " And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[a] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."*
Hebrews 4:16. therefore let us draw near to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
2. **HIMSELF...** *Philippians 1:6, 2:13, 4:13*
3. **FAITHFULNESS TO HIS WORD :** *Romans 8:29. " to those He foreknew, He predestined to be conformed*
4. **HIS GIFT OF FAITH TO US :** *Galations 2:20 "... the life I know live, I live by FAITH in the Son of God .."*
5. **LOVE FOR GOD :** *1st John 4, " ..we love God because He 1st loved us.*

B. OUR PART IN THIS DYING TO SELF:

1. **TO KNOW HIM : INTIMATELY,** made for this, *Isaiah 43:10 / Job 22:21-30 /Jeremiah 29:13-14*
2. **BE IN HIS WORD** and daily offer up : *Romans 12:1-2 "...be not conformed to this world but transformed "*
3. **WALK IN HOLINESS :** *HEBREWS 12:1-3. "Lay aside every encumberance*
4. **PUT ON THE NEW SELF:** *Colossians 3:1-3 3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*
5. **REMEMBER HIM / BEHOLD HIM :** *Psalm 40:1-3 "I waited patiently for the Lord, He inclined me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay.....put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.*
MANY WILL SEE AND FEAR AND WILL TRUST IN THE LORD.

AND THIS IS WHY WE DIE TO SELF SO PEOPLE WILL SEE CHRIST AND BE DRAWN TO OUR LORD.

AMBASSADOR AND WITNESS.

T/S – HOW ARE YOU REALLY DOING WITH THE PROCESS OF DYING TO SELF DAILY?

Evaluate yourself, clarify your priorities.

Are you walking closer with God by His power and His grace?

Do you sense a drifting away?

Are you putting into place practices that draw you close to God?

PRAYER – READING GOD’S WORD – FASTING – JOURNALING – SOLITUDE – KEEPING THE SABBATH – TITHING.

HOW ABOUT YOUR TIME AND POSSESSIONS AND PLANS?

- 1. VACATION / CAR – FOOTBALL / SICK – FRIEND WHO YIELDED**
- 2. PASTOR JEFF / CHINA**

THIS WILL DEFINE YOUR WORSHIP: IS YOUR LIFE AT HIS DISPOSAL? IT COMES DOWN TO ONE QUESTION -- IS EVERYTHING “YES LORD”

SALVATION IS FREE BUT IT WILL COST ALL YOU HAVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.....BUT OH THE REWARD OF FOLLOWING OUR LORD.

A. Looking back at today’s text: Relationships / God’s promise

Luke 18: **29** *And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left elf or wife or brothers[a] or parents or childre, for the sake of the kingdom of God, **30** who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.”*

B. Pick up your cross (self / plans): Jeremiah 29:11

C. Possessions: Luke 12:31-34 - **31** *Instead, seek his[a] kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

T/S – SO NOW AS WE COME TO THE CLOSE, THE MAIN QUESTION REMAINS – WHY MUST WE DIE TO SELF DAILY? THE ANSWER IS CLEAR:

A. Because He is Worthy: King of kings and Lord of lords

B. To express our gratitude. This is our worship.

C. Our obedience is a response to His love.

D. When we die to self daily, then we can be alive to be His Ambassador and do His will on earth.

JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE

A. He emptied Himself at the garden

B. John 17

C. John 6:38-40 — *For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me, and this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should lose nothing at all that He has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father that everyone that looks on the Son, and believes in Him should have eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day.*

And as Jesus laid down His will for the Father's will so we are called to do the same. To make much of Christ and be His ambassadors to bring the message of the Gospel to the lost.

CLOSE: VIDEO (See Luke 14 in this video)

RE-CAP VIDEO

Closing Scripture: 2nd Corinthians 5:13-15, 20

For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ compels us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him for their sake died and was raised.....therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.