

Luke

See Jesus

The Call to Follow Him

Luke 9:18-27

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 17, 2021

In this chapter of Luke, Jesus begins to clarify who His disciples really are and what it means to follow Him. What can we learn from this passage about who He is and how He's called us to live?

I. You Have to Decide for Yourself Who He Is

Jesus moves from a third-person question in verse 19 to a personal question in verse 20:

Luke 9:20 "...But who do you say that I am?"

That's still the most important question that the most important person who's ever lived is asking every one of us today.

"Science is powerless to answer many of our deepest questions, such as 'Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? And what happens when we die?' Those questions can only be answered by faith."

~ Dr. Francis Collins

II. You Don't Get to Decide for Yourself What It Costs to Follow Him

Luke 9:23-24 "And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.'"

A. Following Jesus Changes the Very Core of Who You Are

That Greek word for "deny" means to disown something or to disregard and repudiate what you formerly prized and treasured.

We're born with something that rules us, defines us, and ultimately enslaves us while it promises freedom—our sinful self!

If you're listening to the words of Jesus today, you should be troubled by the words of Rachel Hollis even though her book is peppered with references to the Bible, Jesus, her faith, and Christianity:

"You are meant to be the hero of your own story" ... "You should be the very first of your priorities."

~ Rachel Hollis, *Girl, Wash Your Face*

"The real you is destined for something more... your version of more. This is who you were made to be, and the first step to making that vision a reality is to stop apologizing for having the dream in the first place. Like Lady Gaga says, baby, you were born this way... it's time to become who you were made to be."

“First learn to love yourself well and give yourself credit; then reach for more.”

[On being home with her kids] “It’s not my spiritual gifting. It’s not in my wheelhouse. You know what is in my wheelhouse? Building a successful business...writing books...crushing it on social media, strategizing, branding, PR, and planning live events for women who fly in from all over the world to be inspired.”

~ Rachel Hollis, *Girl, Stop Apologizing*

Jesus turns this whole “self” universe on its head and says, “You’ll never discover who you are or find real freedom and life by pursuing more of yourself!”

Galatians 2:20 “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.”

Colossians 3:1-4 “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. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

B. Following Jesus Changes What You Live For

When Jesus uses the word “cross,” He’s talking about the daily, constant, moment-by-moment decisions you make to do the will of God and live for His glory and mission, no matter what it cost.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Do you know anything about this kind of Christianity where the love of Jesus for you now motivates you to live for Him? Do you know what it feels like to have old things pass away, like your old identity and slavery to self?

There aren’t two kinds of Christianity—regular Christianity and people who really get serious and become disciples. There’s only one. If you’re not a disciple, you’re not a Christian.

You’ll find your real self when you submit to King Jesus and discover how real security and freedom are actually found in living for someone else.