

COMMAND: DIE

EXPANDED LEADER INFORMATION

<i>Looking Back</i>	<i>Looking Up</i>	<i>Looking Forward</i>
<p>1. CARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRAISES/REQUESTS• PRAY FOR EACH OTHER <p>2. LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ABIDE?• MISSION STATEMENT?• PREVIOUS GOAL(S)	<p>3. WORSHIP + SEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 <p>4. VISION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GREAT COMMISSION <p>5. NEW LESSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COMMAND > STORY > READ > ASK > EXPLORE	<p>6. SETTING GOALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HOW WILL WE OBEY AND APPLY THE COMMAND? <p>7. PRACTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 SEC TESTIMONY 3 CIRCLES OIKOS MAP <p>8. COMMISSION</p>

NEW LESSON

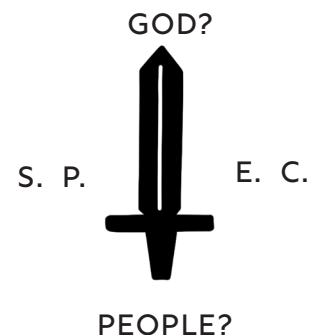
READ THE COMMAND: IN LUKE 9:23-25, JESUS SAYS...

TELL THE STORY: JOHN 12:24-26

READ THE STORY ALOUD

DISCOVER/ASK: USE THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD TO DISCUSS THE STORY AND REVEAL ITS MEANING FOR OUR LIVES

- PRACTICE RETELLING THE STORY



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- The Father will honor those who serve Jesus
- He takes discipleship (follow-ship) seriously. If you go one verse further in the command verses into Luke 9:26, you see that God is pretty serious about what we claim to be and how it should line up with how we actually live.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE?

- If we love this life we will lose it and if we hate life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
- It's important to understand the narrow context of Jesus' words here. The point is not that only those who live in deliberate poverty will be saved. Nor is it that a person must perform the right kind of actions in order to be with God in eternity. Rather, this is a reference to a person's state of mind. This is why Jesus uses the dichotomy of "love" and "hate," with respect to one's earthly life. Just as Jesus was not commanding people to objectively "hate" their family (Luke 14:26), He is not telling us to objectively "hate" our lives. Rather, He's saying that we ought to put 100% of our priority, emphasis, and effort into the will of God. Those who want to cling to the world, instead of Christ, demonstrate that they "love" the world too much to sincerely follow Him (Mark 10:21-23).
- Anyone who serves Jesus must follow him - and in turn they will be with him wherever he is.
- Whoever serves Jesus will be honored by the Father

ARE THERE ANY SINS IN THE PASSAGE TO AVOID?

- Loving or clinging to the world instead of Jesus

ARE THERE ANY PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE THAT WE SHOULD BEHOLD ?

- Those who serve Jesus are honored and revered by the Father
- If you truly follow Jesus, you will find yourself “with” Him and in His presence!

ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES IN THE PASSAGE TO FOLLOW?

- The example of the grain of wheat dying that it might produce more fruit

ARE THERE ANY COMMANDS IN THE PASSAGE TO BE OBEYED?

- If you want to serve Jesus, you must follow Him
- To follow Jesus, you must deny yourself and love Him more than the things of this world
- Do not be ashamed of Him (Luke 9:26)

EXPLORE MORE:

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS?

- Luke 9:23 gives a more clear comparison in that we are commanded to deny ourselves (doing what WE want to do, and how and when WE want to do them...).

B. HOW OFTEN ARE WE CALLED TO DO THIS?

- In Luke 9:23, Jesus says we are to do this DAILY!

C. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR A BELIEVER?

- Even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a guide and revealer of the heart and will of God, He does not “override” our wants and actions in everything we do. As we surrender to Him, He will transform and change our desires, but it is not forced. We still retain the ability to choose disobedience. We still retain the ability to depend and lean upon our own “strengths” to get us through. We can still be busy focusing on what WE think is important or desirable and miss out on what GOD is wanting to do. This command goes hand-in-hand with the command to Pursue Partnership with the Holy Spirit because it is only through His power that we are able to please the Lord and do the work we are called to do. However, it takes a daily, intentional dying to ourselves for this to happen! We must daily remind ourselves that the day belongs to the Lord, and realign our desires and plans together with His. If Jesus says that we must “follow Him,” then He must be on the move! So we must daily lift our head to see where He is, where He is headed, and join Him there!

D. WHAT THINGS DO YOU, PERSONALLY, THINK YOU NEED TO DIE TO? (THIS INCLUDES ANYTHING FROM SPECIFIC SINS YOU HAVEN'T REPENTED OF TO AREAS OF STRENGTH OR PRIDE WITHIN YOURSELF THAT YOU DEPEND ON MORE THAN YOU DEPEND ON GOD... IT MAY ALSO INCLUDE THINGS THAT AREN'T NECESSARILY SINFUL, BUT YOU DEVOTE MORE TIME, ENERGY, RESOURCE, AND PASSION INTO THAN YOU DO THE LORD)?

- Make sure to encourage people to try and answer each of these areas. Maybe you could break the discussion into parts based on the different things mentioned in parentheses.

E. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS THAT GOD WOULD HONOR SOMEONE WHO SERVES JESUS?

- Matthew 10:32-33 gives a clear example extending from Luke 9:26 of how we will be honored by the Lord in heaven (with eternal salvation). If you reask the question in the form of how God honors our prayer requests (or not), it gives us an idea of how God's honor/favor/blessings play out in our daily life.

EXPLORE MORE:

Added Notes...here is an excerpt from a follow-up email on a sermon about DIE.

There are many deeds, fruit, and character and lifestyle changes that are expected from the life of a person who claims Jesus as Lord and Savior. There are also a lot of really cool experiences we are invited to have with the Lord! One of the most common questions/struggles that we hear people battle with is, "How do I do that!?" We are quite aware of our need to put on love, or clothe ourselves with humility, or to witness to those around us, or to operate in patience and grace when our default seems to be anger instead.

How do we do all these things in following Jesus?

On Sunday, we covered the last of what we called a trifecta approach to being able to live this life in Christ--DIE.

When it comes to the practical of how to battle the desires of our flesh and live out the life Jesus would if He were us, there are three fundamental commands/essentials of the faith: Die to Self, Pursue Partnership, and Abide.

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." - Galatians 2:20

The first step in answering the question how is to realize that YOU are no longer just you anymore. You died. You are a new creation, and the old you didn't just confess that Jesus died for you and continued on to accomplish the goals of the faith. That you, died! It is now Christ who lives in/through you.

Practically, you have to come to the end of yourself and your efforts and shortcomings and lay all of you before the Father...every day. Lay yourself down as a sacrifice unto the Lord.

Second, and similarly, in recognizing that your efforts and your strength and your strategies aren't enough... you have to pursue partnership with God (specifically, His Spirit). The joyful part is that we weren't meant to do it on our own. Just as we didn't begin this faith journey except by the Spirit, neither can we finish it without Him!

Practically, just as we lay ourselves undone at the feet of the Lord, we partner with His Spirit, allowing Him to pick us back up in His strength, for "His mercies are new every morning," and we are to be a "living sacrifice..." not a dead one, haha!

Last, we commit to remaining in this partnership as we Abide in Him. We continue to soak up God's Word. We listen for His voice and commune in prayerful conversation with Him. We go about our day as if He is right there with us!

Practically, this looks like imagining ourselves literally taking the yoke of Christ (the farming equipment that tied two oxen together around the neck and shoulders) and connecting ourselves to Him. All day. Every day. Put a padlock on that thing and throw away the key! And just to reiterate the pursuing partnership concept, let HIM lead!

SET GOALS

- Example: Practice denying yourself and laying yourself before the Lord every morning this week. Commit to partnering with the Spirit, following His leading and operating in His strength and wisdom. Abide continually in that place all day, every day. See what God does!