

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

"The Secret to a Significant Life"

Luke 9:23-27 (NKJV); **Take Up the Cross and Follow Him**

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the kingdom of God."

1. **A significant life d_____ to follow Jesus above anything e_____** (v. 23a).

Application: Jesus & God are invisible right now. So how do I start having a desire for that which is spiritual and invisible?

- 1) ***Realize that desiring the eternal is much more rewarding than pursuing the temporary.***

Philippians 3:7-8; ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

- 2) ***Recognize that God's Kingdom has to come before mine!***

Matthew 6:33; But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- 3) ***Remember that only Jesus can satisfy your thirsty soul.***

Psalm 42:1-As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O God.

2. **A significant life d_____ to s_____ to follow the Savior** (v. 23).

Want to know the secret to significance?

- 1) **Die** to that which is causing you to die! -selfish pursuit devoid of eternal value
- 2) **Sacrifice** the temporary for the sake of that which is eternal.
- 3) **Follow** the One who will always lead you forward and upward.

3. A significant life d_____ to live for a bigger p_____ (v. 24-25).

4. A significant life d_____ in Jesus more than the applause of m_____ (v. 26).

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

2 Timothy 1:12: For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

5. A significant life d_____ with hope about the f_____ (v. 27).

Application: How could you get a taste of the Kingdom in today's world?

- 1) Seeing a life transformed with the Gospel.
- 2) Experiencing lasting peace in the midst of a crisis.
- 3) Seeing someone get physical healing from a sickness.
- 4) Seeing Arden First Baptist take off like a Rocketship for the glory of God and the good of this community!

Sermon in a Sentence: A significant life is one that is fully given to follow Jesus.



Action Steps:

- 1) **Choose** to live for Christ and His Kingdom instead of you and your Kingdom!
- 2) **Enter** into God's Story and live a life of purpose and significance.
- 3) **Join** a Life Group for the next 40 days during our 40 Days of Community Challenge.

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.