

March 15, 2020

Theme: Lent (Week Three) — Why?

Scriptures: Mark 8:36

Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives?

Sermon Title: Dislodging and Disposing Self Interest

Sermon in a Sentence: When we walk in the feet of Jesus (sacrificial love), we can fall even more deeply in love with him.

Call To Worship

ONE: Let us follow Jesus -

ALL: In faith, we shall follow!

ONE: Let us learn his ways -

ALL: In faith, we shall follow!

ONE: Let us take hold of his vision -

ALL: In faith, we shall follow!

ONE: Let us live as he lived -

ALL: In faith, we shall follow!

ONE: Let us love as he loved -

ALL: In faith, we shall follow!

ONE: Let us worship God, the Giver of Christ Jesus.

9am Prayer of Confession: O Lord God, you are our refuge and strength. Forgive us when we fail to trust in you and the way of Jesus. Fear too easily becomes our inspiration, and we seek self-preservation. We are swayed by false teachings that encourage us to enjoy the blessings of your love, but never to ponder what it means to be a blessing to the world. In turning away from Jesus and the cross, we settle for less than the abundant life you intended. Forgive us, we pray, and do not allow us to become self-absorbed. Forgive us and then lead us in the way of cross. Amen.

Words of Absolution: In the name of Christ the Savior, I share the Good News: We are forgiven! This gift invites us to become more than we were yesterday - more faithful, more compassionate, more loving. Yet even if we fail, there will be forgiveness tomorrow. Thanks be to God!

Sermon Background: The real challenge is to go beyond simply living as recipients and becoming true disciples. In first-century Roman society, disciples were expected to emulate their teachers. This was also true within rabbinical schools and in Greco-Roman philosophical schools. As a disciple of Jesus, we are to emulate everything about him, including the cross. Now is that just a symbol? Yes and no! We should not be those who simply admire the cross from a distance, but not every follower of Jesus is going to have to give their physical lives. With that said, every time we sacrifice, even in small ways, we gain just a glimpse of who God in Christ Jesus is. The better we understand love exemplified in Jesus, the more we appreciate, admire and fall in love with him and his ways.

Key Words/Phrases: Cross, lose your life, sacrifice, sacrificial love, give it away
Self-Interest, Self-Serving

Deriving and Delighting in the Faith vs. Deeply Committed Disciples
Learn firsthand, Falling in love
Learning the way of the cross, Emulate/Embody the way of the cross

Video/Images:

Music: Music begins to take a darker turn - heavier, toward the cross

9:00

NEW VERSION: He Leadeth Me

Take on the mind of Christ the Lord
who gave up life in heaven above;
he chose to suffer with the poor
to make us rich in God's great love.

Chorus: He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he lead the me:
he faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

Take on the way he chose to live;
he put ambition to the side.
He gave us all he had to give,
then on a cross he humbly died.

Chorus

Take on the gift that we've been given:
God raised him up in love to reign;
and now he's Lord of earth and heaven.
Accept this gift and praise his name.

Chorus

11:00

The Wonderful Cross