



Mystery | Following Jesus • Week Five • December 31, 2017

Luke 9:57-62

Opening: What makes people 'who they are'? Why are you the person you are? What life events or values have shaped who you are today?

Discussion: Read Luke 9:57-62 together

In his message, Pastor Dave Bianchin refers to a poem written by Mary Oliver. In this poem, she poses this question: What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

- What are your initial thoughts, feelings or gut reactions to this question?

From Luke 9, Pastor Dave shared the story of three men who seem to want to follow Jesus, but things have gotten in the way. The three men each illustrate a particular temptation that keeps Jesus at arm's length.

- What do you think gets in your way of following Jesus today?
- In what area(s) of your life, do you feel you keep Jesus at arm's length?

Temptation #1: Shallowness. (Following this section of questions read John 6:67-69.)

Pastor Dave quoted Dr. Kenneth Bailey: "... people in every age glibly offer to follow Jesus with no serious reflection on the price or the implications of following a suffering, rejected master."

- If you struggle with shallowness in your relationship with Jesus, what issues need to be addressed?
- How have you felt the cost in following Jesus in your life?
- How have you felt the worth of following Jesus in your life?

Temptation #2: Stalling. (Following this section of questions read 2 Corinthians 6:2.)

Pastor Dave summarized this temptation with these words, "Wanting to follow Jesus at our convenience, rather than following Jesus now."

- What excuses are you giving to delay following Jesus today?
- What opportunities might you be in danger of missing if you keep making excuses?
- What kind of relationship is Jesus longing to have with you? How will you pursue that kind of relationship with Him going forward?



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Temptation #3: Segregating. (Conclude this section of questions by reading and meditating on Luke 9:23-25.)

Pastor Dave defined this last temptation as: "Instead of following Jesus fully, we want to juggle Him among other priorities."

- How would you describe your pattern of following Jesus?
- What other interests are you juggling along with Jesus?
- What might be holding you back from fully yielding to Jesus?

To summarize, Pastor Dave emphasized the need for self-awareness and the joy and abundance of following Jesus fully and serving Him.

- Which of these three temptations do you tend to fall into most easily?
- What steps can you take to get on the pathway of joy and abundance?
- How can you become more available to God to be used for His glory?
- Next weekend, how will you prioritize exploring serving options at the Serving Fair?

Practice of the Week:

Simplicity: to uncomplicate and untangle your life so you can focus on what really matters.

- How will you set your priorities for 2018 so that they flow from loving God above all else?
- What activities or possessions could you downsize or simplify?

Additional Resources:

Simplicity: the Freedom of Letting Go by Richard Rohr

The Lessons of Saint Francis: How to Bring Simplicity and Spirituality into Your Daily Life by John Michael Talbot and Steve Rabey

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We would also LOVE to hear how God is using these Scriptures and study guides in your lives.

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