

“Christ lives in you so He can live His life through you” from Luke 9:23-27
Special edition to our series on the Gospel of Luke entitled “the red letters”
Guest speaker: Craig Swing; April 11th, 2010

In a large group...

1. How comfortable are you with the concept of “delayed gratification”? Were have you seen losing something ultimately end in gain?

In small groups (4-6)...

Observation

2. Read Luke 9:23-27. What requirements does Jesus place on those who would desire to follow him? What reason does he give for those requirements?

Interpretation

3. Verse 23 contains the first mention of the cross in Luke’s Gospel. Why is the mention of it significant here? What word/idea from our modern context could be used instead of “cross”?
4. In recounting his story Craig stated one of his life lessons: “Christ lives in you so He can live His life through you.” So Christ’s saves us so we will follow Him, following Him will require us to take up a cross, and all of this is so He might live His life through us. So... what’s in it for us? Is that even a good question to ask?
5. In verses 57-62 of Luke, Jesus addresses three men who desire to follow Him. What else do we discover about Christ’s requirements for His followers? In the message Craig mentioned Psalm 90:12 and 2 Corinthians 6:2:

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Ps 90.12 ESV)

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6.1–2 ESV)

Why does Jesus require that we not wait (for any reason) to take on the radical requirements of following Him?

Application

6. When have you denied yourself in following Christ? What was the result in the world and in your soul?
7. (Here’s a goal for this question: have everyone answer!) In what ways (specifically) could *you* be more responsive to Christ’s call in your own life? What is holding you back?

Prayer: Pray for the person on your left. Pray for their answer to #7. Pray that they would see the rewards of following Christ as they really are – infinitely greater than seeking life anywhere else.