



Message Reflections

September 10, 2023

"If God thought our problem was a lack of entertainment, He would have sent an entertainer. If He thought our problem was political, He would have sent a politician. If He thought our problem was economic, He would have sent an economist. But He didn't. He sent a Savior because our problem is sin."

- D.A. Carson

Read: Matthew 16:13-20 and Luke 9:23-25

We live in a culture that tells us to follow our dreams; to sacrifice everything for what we want. Jesus tells us to do the opposite. He invites us to give up our dreams and entrust them to Him. Peter and the disciples slowly learned what true faith is. True faith is not about getting what you want the most. True faith is the painful experience of letting go of what you most want, in order to gain what God wants for you. When you let go of your dreams, you are "losing your life." And at the same time, you are finding it.

- What are some things that you had to lose in order to follow Jesus? Maybe at the time they seemed important, but looking back, how do they look to you now?
- How do you think your unbelieving neighbors and coworkers would answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matt. 16:15) How could a similar question be used to establish a gospel conversation?
- What can you do this year to deepen your understanding and commitment to Christ and His church? When it comes to church, are you a spectator or a participant?

Pray: Begin with 2 minutes of silence and stillness before God. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to slow down, stop, and sit at Jesus' feet in stillness. Pray for Him to help you lay down your wants, so you may grow in your love for God and others.