

Motivation to Live for Jesus

Luke 9 – *Lord's first prediction of
His death and resurrection*

I. Confessing Christ, 18-20

18: Jesus wanted to know what people said about Him (cf. 9:1-6)

19: compared to greatest men of history...

- Estimate is too low
- His works spoke for Him
- He won the faith of those who knew Him best

20: not enough to know what others think

- Salvation requires personal belief and confession
- Peter answers for the group
 - Lk.5:14; 8:56 – ‘*tell no one*’
 - Those who knew Him best, confessed Him in highest terms, and spent rest of their lives preaching Him to world

“There are some things about Him that you don’t know”

21-22: 'tell this to no one'

- There was much error and confusion about the Messiah

“Jesus was obliged at once to reveal and to veil Himself, to kindle and to cover the flame” – Riggerbach

- If He had offered them a meal plan, all probably would have stayed (Jn.6:26)

I. Confessing Christ, 18-20

II. Cross of Christ, 21-22

Disciples also had wrong views of Christ

- Mt.16:21-23
- No disciple expected His crucifixion
- Elders, chief priests, scribes (religious 'authorities' of that day) would oppose Him

“Killed” – Jesus? By crucifixion?

- He broke the news gradually . . .
 - Mt.9:15
 - Mt.10:38
 - Mt.16:21
 - Mt.17:22-23
 - Mt.20:18
 - Mt.26:2

It is impossible
to help people
who reject plain
statements

I. Confessing Christ, 18-20

II. Cross of Christ, 21-22

**III. Cross of Christ's
Followers, 23-26**

“All ... if anyone ... deny himself ... his cross”

- 23: the real shock: not only Lord, but His followers have cross to bear?
 - Mt.10:28 . . . 28:20 – trust Him
 - Ac.18:9-10, *stop being afraid...*
 - 1 Co.2:3, *much trembling*

John 6

- Many wanted His company till they heard hard sayings
- *Today: many want His company till they learn He is not running a food bank*
 - Self indulgence is not self denial
 - Jn.6:25-26

Following Christ, Lk.9:23-26

- All [if anyone]: no exceptions. Mk.8:34
- Desire: wish, will. Ps.42:1-2
- Come after Me. Choices: Lord or world?
- Self-denial: Lk.22:57, Peter denied...
 - We usually give *self* special treatment...
Mk.6:25
 - Col.1:18, And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that ¹⁾ in all things
²⁾ He may have the preeminence

Following Christ, Lk.9:23-26

- All: no exceptions. Mk.8:34
- Desire: wish will
- Come after Me: are we sure we want to?
- Self-denial: 22:57, Peter denied...
- Sacrifice: take up cross
 - Costs us time, effort, money, comfort, life
 - Mt.10:34-35

“He saith also how far one ought to renounce oneself, that is, unto death, and that a reproachful death” – Chrysostom

- “I have a cross to bear”
(unemployed... sickness...pain, etc.)

Our cross is connected to our commitment to Christ.

When we wear His name, publicly identify with Him ... because He was hated, we will be hated too.

If we hide our faith, we cannot share in His exaltation.

Following Christ, Lk.9:23-26

- All: no exceptions. Mk.8:34
- Desire: wish will
- Come after Me: are we sure we want to?
- Self-denial: 22:57, Peter denied...
- Sacrifice: take up cross
- Time (daily): *Paul* – Ro.8:36; 1 Co.15:31
- Follow Me: “Obey Me without question”
- Lost or saved? (the only choices)
 - Paradox: 24. 2 Tim.2:11
 - Profit: 25. 2 Tim.2:12
 - Preference: 26.

Preference, cont'd.

- Moses and Elijah – greatest prophets of OT
 - They are dismissed
 - Jesus is exalted by His Father – we need no one else
 - If we are ashamed of Him now, we deserve His shame of us in eternity.
- 2 Tim.1:12

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- **Promise: 27, Jesus was rejected, but would not fail**
 - Opponents were [are] are eternal failures
 - Jesus died, but conquered; so can we

“I would never be ashamed of Christ?”

Lk.9 –

57-58: “I will follow You wherever You go”

59-60: “Lord, permit me first...”

61-62: “Let me first bid farewell to my family”

What does it mean to take up your cross?
...to be crucified with Christ?

- 1) a man who is crucified is facing only one way
- 2) a man who is crucified is not going back
- 3) he has no further plans of his own

Question: Am I willing to take up the cross?

Ph.3:8