



Jesus Follows No One | Andrew Matrone | 3.27.22
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is the strangest thing you've ever forgotten?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week Pastor Andrew Matrone reminded us of the invitation and great sacrifice it requires to follow Jesus. Every human being, designed in God's likeness has a desire to deeply know and be known by our Creator God. There is a difference of knowing of God and deeply knowing God and as Andrew shared this week, to know God means to follow him and when we follow him it requires us to pick up our cross and die to our self.

But before we dive in, take a few minutes to check in with your Group by answering the following questions.

What is bringing you life?

Where did you see God in your life this week?

GROW

Read Luke 9:23-27

What is Jesus emphasizing to his disciples in this passage?

At this point in Jesus' story, no one had any compartment or understanding of a crucified and risen Messiah as we do today. Jesus was preparing for the cross from the very beginning and preparing his followers for the same. What Jesus was saying to his disciples in that the very moment was preparation for what was to come, "By the way, not only am I going to the cross, but, if you want to be my disciple, you're going too." Look at verse 23: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Do you want to be a Christian? The cross. What this means, for most of us, not actually brutally tortured, nailed or hung on a cross. But just as Andrew said this weekend, this means death to self, forgetting about our own selfish desires but instead rising again to the new and abundant life. Jesus uses this extreme language because it is an extreme death. Death to self is always painful, and what is required of us as to follow Christ

The invitation is to follow Christ in your everyday coming and going. To follow him in your brokenness with your dreams, with your marriage, with your kids, with your suffering. Andrew said this week, that this life is not just meant for you but for all those around you.

What does it mean to you, as a disciple of Christ, to die to self?

What does it look like for you personally to follow Christ in your daily life?

M O V E

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6; Galatians 5:17

Discuss how these two passages relate and how do they apply to this week's message?

Each of us have purposely been put here on earth, on this timeline for a purpose. Everything we have experienced and will experience is fought in conflict. Conflict of living out of the flesh and living through the Spirit. One brings death and the other life. As followers of Christ, we are invited to live a life that represents Jesus to the broken world. In this Scripture Peter is saying "enough is enough". We can't waste any more time here living out of flesh. We have a

message to carry with such Good News. When we are aligned with the Spirit, we will bring life wherever we go.

Where in your life is God saying to you “enough is enough”? Enough living in your own flesh and by your own strength?

What does it mean to live by the Spirit?

Following Christ is the invitation to stand in the grace of our Savior and reclaim our lives for His glory. It is time to love well where others have stopped, to let that love drown out past sin and pain. It is the time to rejoice in our suffering because we are sharing in the suffering with Christ. God desires us to live a life worthy of our calling as his disciples as we are here to “make heaven more crowded.” And this requires us to repent and turn away from our own sin patterns, returning back to him, picking up our cross daily and choosing him every day, in every moment. Living in the Spirit requires total surrender and full trust in the God who has called you by name.

What does it mean when Peter is saying “rejoice in your suffering”? What emotion does this stir within you when you hear this?

What are you holding gripping tightly that is keeping you from being aligned with the Spirit? What is keeping you from releasing this to God?

Jesus never said this life of following him would be easy, but he did say it will be worth it. He brings life abundantly and anything that is not of him brings a slow death. We are free to walk this life fully alive in Christ because of his life, death and resurrection on the cross. And because of this, we are free to love deeper, serve wider, and live a life in forgiveness. Family, this changes everything. He is the better.

This week, open your hands a bit wider, surrendering your will and choose to live by the Spirit in your relationships, in your home, at work, school, with your finances, wherever that may be, watch God bring life into each of these places. Check-in with each other by sending a quick text or phone call of encouragement.

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10