

Small Group/Sermon Notes for High Ways Part 4: Giving Your Life to Christ

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- Key Scripture **Isaiah 55:6-9**
 - God's ways are higher than our ways x2:
 - First, God's ways can be hard to understand sometimes.
 - Second, God's ways are much much better than our ways.
- **This week: Giving Your Life to Christ.**
- The Paradox of giving your life for Christ. It's in there six times. That's a lot.
- I think a lot of people don't really know what to do with this.
 - Faith is when you trust God's ways even though you don't understand.
 - Friend of God is when you "get" God's ways, catch God's vision.
- So, how do we catch God's vision of **Mark 8:34-36?** (the other examples are: Matt 10:39, Matt 16:25, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33, John 12:25)
 - Again, this (in slightly different forms) is in there six times. Core teaching.
 - This is a core teaching. If we miss this it will distort our understanding of God.
 - What is an inverted relationship with God? Do you think this is common?
- Does losing your life for Christ seem hard? It's about to get harder.
- Counting the costs: **Luke 14:25-33.**
 - If Scripture didn't say **v26** I'd reject it. However, I submit and try to catch God's vision.
 - What was Jesus saying? Let me give you my best shot at this:
 - This world is messed up right?? Things **MUST CHANGE!!**
 - Well, except for my kids. My kids are perfect. And me. I'm good. But everyone else **NEEDS TO CHANGE!!!!**
 - No. Jesus is saying you too. Your kids too. Christians too. All of us need to turn away from darkness and devote ourselves to the ways of God. That is repentance.
 - What if everyone on the planet just went ahead and did this?
 - World peace for starters. The end of poverty and exploitation.
 - Since this world won't do it there is misery and pain. (See the problem with sin?)
 - God's full plan only works if we all cooperate. (marriage for example)
 - However, God reserves a place in Heaven for **ALL** who will do it themselves!
 - Are you in? Count the costs. It's an easy one.
- Can you take this too literally? I think I did.
 - God isn't calling us to a harsh life of lack, poverty, disengaging from life to just focus on Him.
 - It's not about walking away from your life. It's about walking through it differently. This will normally result in abundant life now and everlasting life in the future!
 - **Mark 8:35-36.** It is the same Greek word translated "life" in 35 and "soul" in 36! You get to have your life! How does this cause you to read these verses differently?
- What does it look like to give your life to Jesus and the Gospel?
 - You put God's ways into practice even if you don't understand.
 - God's heart becomes your heart. This can take time, but it happens.
 - Your dreams become God's dreams. (Here is where you may quit your job.)
 - Pray "Lord, what do you want to do? What is my part?"
- When we give our lives to Christ he takes our messed up life and gives us the life we were supposed to have. Have you ever felt like you missed being who you were supposed to be?
 - **Luke 9:24-25.** The key to getting to be the real you is fully surrendering to Jesus.
 - Don't miss this opportunity.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!