

## Luke 9 pt 3; Vs. 18-26

<sup>18</sup> And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

<sup>19</sup> So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.”

<sup>20</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.”

<sup>21</sup> And He strictly warned and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>22</sup> saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.”

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.

1. Jesus has been with His disciples for over 2 years
  - a. They watched Him teach
  - b. They witnessed miracles, healings, deliverance
  - c. They saw His balance of strength & compassion
  - d. All of this is by design, to learn who God is by watching Jesus
2. He’s coming to the end of His Galilean ministry
3. As Jesus was praying alone...
  - a. Why is Jesus praying?
  - b. Prayer is a dialogue between 2 people
    - i. A time of speaking and listening
    - ii. Jesus was communing with the Father
    - iii. It may very well be that He was also praying for us (John 17)

4. Who do the crowds say that I am?
  - a. **This is the most important question each person must answer**
  - b. Jesus wants the disciples to begin thinking a bit deeply about who He is
  - c. The correct answer defines if we're on the right path or not
    - i. If we know the truth about who God is
  - d. **John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**
  - e. There are many who claim to know who is Jesus
    - i. Many will say, He is Lord, He is Savior...
    - ii. J.W will tell you he is a god, one among many
    - iii. Mormons will tell you that Jesus was the brother of Lucifer; God was once man and evolved...
5. Some say John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again
  - a. John the Baptist was still fresh in people's minds so that would make sense.
  - b. Elijah is referred to in the Book of Malachi who is going to return before the Messiah arrives so that would make sense.
  - c. One of the old Prophets is just plain confusion at that point.
  - d. There was plenty of confusion because Israel was looking for a Messiah who would introduce a physical kingdom

6. It was commonly believed that before the coming of the Messiah:
  - a. There would be great turmoil - which Rome occupying their land was in great turmoil
  - b. An Elijah-like forerunner would come (see Matthew 11:14) (John the Baptist fulfilled that)
  - c. Then the Messiah Himself would come rule and reign from Jerusalem
  - d. Scattered Jews would return to Zion, and there would be peace(**Heitzig**)
  
  - e. They were looking for someone to take the sword and deliver them from the Romans
  - f. So the majority missed Him and many Jews today still miss Jesus because they have something else in mind
  
  - g. Just as their fathers missed:
    - i. Joseph
    - ii. Moses
    - iii. Gideon
  
  - h. Could it be that God is sending me the answer but I'm not recognizing it?
    - i. It's not how I envisioned it
7. **But who do you say I am** is the most important question and it needs to be answered correctly because everything hinges on this truth.
8. **Matt 16:16** Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God- *The Messiah*
9. **Blessed are you Simon bar Jonah for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven**
10. Jesus tells them not to tell anyone because it wasn't yet time for this to be public, and tells them **The Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day.**

11. It's interesting that the first time Jesus speaks of His death, burial... it's after a revelation of who He is
  - a. This is important
  - b. Getting a revelation from the Holy Spirit about who Jesus is and what He means to me comes before hearing that I'm to take up my cross and follow Him
  - c. How does this revelation happen?
  - d. The Lord reveals Himself to us openly in the scripture
  - e. Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. **Rev 1:17**
    - i. He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands
    - ii. the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life
    - iii. He who has the sharp two-edged sword
    - iv. the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass
    - v. He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars
    - vi. He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens
    - vii. the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God

viii. Our revelation of who Jesus is needs to come from God's Word, not what I feel or think

12. Then He says **if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself take up his cross daily and follow me.**

a. Jesus was speaking to the disciples and anyone else who may have been listening

b. If your desire is to follow Me, here's how to do it

c. **Follow My example:**

d. As I journey to the Cross, die and rise again, so must you

13. Jesus could have simply paid the price for our sins, but instead chose to have disciples follow and learn from Him

a. Learn His Words – about God's kingdom

b. Learn His Ways – about how to live in this kingdom

c. As we're drawn to Christ, He shows us how to live – DIE

d. This is not some secret requirement for the committed core only;

e. this is an essential basic message for everyone:

f. Following Jesus is precisely the opposite of affirming self and living for self.

g. From start to finish, following Jesus means denying self as a basic attitude toward life (**Cole**)

14. The rules of God's kingdom are opposed to the world we live in

a. If you want to live, die

b. If you want to get, give

c. If you want to go up, go down

15. This is Christianity
  - a. It's not about someone trying to save themselves
    - i. Being a good person
    - ii. Going to church
    - iii. Doing their best...
      1. That is trying to save yourself with your efforts
16. Jesus said, if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself take up his cross daily and follow Me
  - a. There is no other way
17. Carrying the Cross and daily is often misunderstood
  - a. Some believe that their pain or current circumstance or affliction, disease is their cross.
  - b. Some believe difficult relationships are there cross
    - i. But that is not the biblical meaning of the cross.
  - c. As a follower of Jesus, when I accepted Him I now have a new nature and along with that new nature there remains an old nature living inside of me.
  - d. So every believer has both an old and new nature living on the inside.
  - e. The new nature is what desires to worship God
    - i. praise God
    - ii. please God
    - iii. obey God
    - iv. Fellowship with God
  - f. It's the new true me, the deepest part of who I am.
  - g. The old nature is the one that is still very selfish, prone to anger prone to lust prone to Pride and is self-consumed in its own comfort.

- h. The cross is an instrument designed to slowly crucify a person's flesh
  - i. This is the part that needs to be dealt with on a daily basis and Jesus tells us that it must be crucified daily,
  - j. where I say no to my own selfish desires say no to my pride say no to my lust and and choose to obey and follow the spirit of God and not my own selfish desires
18. Romans helps us understand how this process works.
- a. Galatians also gives practical application to make this happen.
    - i. Romans 6 – Recon yourselves dead to sin
    - ii. Galatians 5 – Live in the Spirit...(Walk in the Spirit)
19. All of this is done in light of a revelation of who Jesus is
20. Then Jesus proceeds to say **for whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.**
21. In other words those who want to follow Jesus and trust that His way is the best way will be obedient and take up their cross daily and follow him
22. Those that say I think there might be an easier way
- a. and try to do things on their own trying to save themselves some pain
  - b. and discomfort will end up in a world of hurt and discomfort
  - c. Mainly because they are no longer walking an intimate Fellowship with the Lord.
  - d. It's where I want to remain in control
23. But I cannot walk intimately with the God that I am disobeying
24. Jesus knows our initial response is "NO, I DON'T WANT TO DIE"

25. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and is himself destroyed or lost?
26. In other words what happens if a person is able to satisfy all the desires of his soul, achieve all of the dreams from his heart, gain all the wealth and fame and lose his soul?
27. When it's all said and done at the end of their life what will this person have truly gained?
28. What will the end of this person's life be? LOST
29. When we consider king Herod, the religious rulers, or Judas, who all were chasing comfort, power, money, they all lost their souls
30. For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory and His Father's and of the holy angels.
31. I believe this may be saying that people often choose not to follow after Jesus because they hold themselves or others in higher esteem than our Lord
  - a. Which means this person didn't know or follow the Lord
32. Being sold out for the Lord means someone who offers everything to God.
  - a. Their time, talent, treasure, hopes, dreams...
  - b. He / She doesn't desire to gain a better life and hopefully make it to heaven
  - c. This person says, this world is not my home
33. How do you become a disciple of Jesus? Believe he is "the Christ of God" (Luke 9:18-20); take up your cross daily