



Small Group Notes

Text:

Matthew 16:21-26

Title:

Transformation through obedience

Further scriptures:

Matthew 19:16-22

Eph. 2:1-3

John 12:24

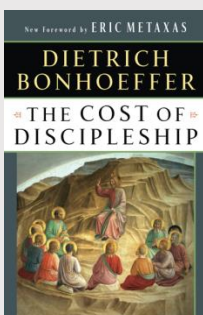
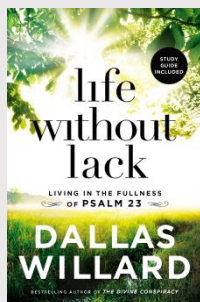
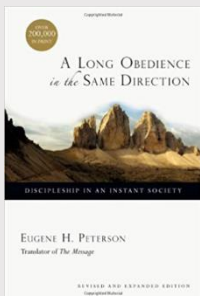
Gal. 2:20

2 Cor. 5:14

1 Cor. 6:19

Matt. 13:44-46

Matt. 7:24-27



Each week we're going to be looking at a characteristic of Christ and a practice that will help us grow in that characteristic. This week we started by looking at Jesus' call for his disciples to deny themselves, and how we live this out through obedience and submission.

Reflect

1. What most impacted you from the passage or from the preach?
2. What is your understanding of what Jesus says in Matt. 16:24? What is he calling his disciples to do?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says, 'whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' (v25)? In what ways could we try and 'save' our lives? (Think about the story of the rich young ruler in Matt. 19)
4. How does Jesus model self-denial to us? (See Matt. 16:21-23 and Gal.2:20)
5. How can self-denial lead to fulfillment?

Respond

1. How do you respond to the idea that 'you are not your own.' (See 1 Cor. 6:19). Do you have any negative reaction to that? If so, why?
2. Why is it potentially problematic to follow or be driven by our desires?
3. What does submission to Jesus look like in your daily life? In what areas of your life are you most tempted to live according

Practice

Looking at the practice sheet, consider the following:

1. In what areas of my life do I need to seek to deny myself? (See Practice 3).
2. What steps could you take to grow in self-denial? What practices could you adopt to help you walk in obedience and submission. (See Practice 1 & 2).

Further reading

A long obedience in the same direction, *Eugene Peterson*
Life without lack, *Dallas Willard*
The cost of discipleship, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

