



Sermon Notes: The Demands of Discipleship

1. Shift your identity and allegiance.

- a. Away from self.
- b. Away from tradition and cultural norms.
- c. Away from other relationships.

2. Accept a new priority and agenda.

- a. Stop living like everyone else.
 - 1) Seeking the treasure of the world.
 - 2) Seeking the approval of the world.
 - 3) Seeking the comforts of the world.
 - 4) Seeking the compromise of the world.
- b. Live first and foremost for Jesus.

3. Embrace the paradox of dying to live.

- Take a one-way trip with Jesus and don't look back.



Application Questions: The Demands of Discipleship

1. What “self-“ words do you frequently observe in Christian culture? Which do you see manifested in your own life?
2. What is the opposite of self-denial and what are some ways you do *that* on a consistent basis?
3. What are some things each of the following types of people tend to build their identity on?
 - traditionalists/conservatives
 - progressives/liberals
 - religious moralists
 - “American Dreamers”
 - you
4. What happens when someone attacks the thing you’re building your identity on? How does this relate to Jesus’ words, “*Whoever would save his/her self will lose it*”?
5. Review *Luke 9:59, 61*. What are some ways we tell Jesus today, “*Lord, I will follow you, but first...*”? What are some ways we negotiate the conditions of our discipleship based on “ifs,” “whens,” and other priorities?
6. What relationships threaten/undermine your ability to follow Christ selflessly? How do your conversations with this person and the dynamic of this relationship promote self-absorption, self-righteousness, and self-pity rather than self-denial?
7. What’s the one thing that stands between you and real discipleship?
8. What is the cumulative effect of Jesus words on you? What’s your gut reaction to, “*Deny yourself...take up your cross daily...follow me...lose your life for my sake*”? How is this different than the message of the modern pop gospel?
9. “*Taking up your cross daily*” does not mean having trials in your life just like everyone else. What does it mean? Why do you think this isn’t a one-time decision, but rather something you have to choose intentionally each and every day?
10. What one thing will you do to apply this message this week? How will you do this in and for the Gospel, rather than in your own best efforts?