

Life Group Lesson

Soul Detox Week 5 • Week of February 13

Introduction

How do we get lost? We get lost when we go with what *feels right* to us and leave God out of our lives. Many people do this. Many of us in the church get lost when out of desperation (lack of faith) we refuse to trust God and instead take matters into our own hands. Think of Aaron and the Israelites when Moses ‘took too long’ with God on the mountain (Exodus 32:1-8). Many who have said yes to Christ, can still experience lostness. When we say with our actions, “Not your will be done, God, but my will” – like Adam and Eve, we fall prey to the lie of the Serpent that God can’t be trusted. Yet Jesus says, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it” (Matthew 16:24-25).

What does it mean to be saved—‘if I give up my life I will save it’? It means I come to a place where I want to be *found* – a place of full surrender to the God whom I trust. I ask the Lord to cleanse my soul from the poisons of hate and toxins of self-absorption, and lead me to a new, refreshing place of spiritual restoration. I am *found* when I realize, the Lord is *my* Shepherd and He alone can restore my soul, my innocence, and the beautiful relationship I once had in the beginning. We (humanity) are the crowning glory of God’s creation, made in His image. It was the LORD God who breathed into Adam the breath of life. Same with me: God breathes His Spirit into me! In Christ, I can find my true purpose and experience life in the presence of God.

Background

After 9/11 Dallas Willard defined evil: “Evil is when we misunderstand God and misallocate who we are to God and to others.” Lostness came into creation when evil entered the world, and we believed the lie that we would be more fulfilled if we were god. The fruit looks so good. The road that says ‘this feels so right, it must be right’ – is not the path Jesus took (see Matthew 26:36-46). When Peter reprimanded Jesus for speaking of the impending betrayal and death, Jesus rebuked Peter: “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s” (Matthew 16:23). Though Peter was a rock-in-the-making, he misunderstood heaven’s assignment over Jesus. Stay on path. We are fellow-pilgrims and there can be no competing kingdoms in the Kingdom of Christ.

Reading the Text

Read Matthew 16:21-28

Deeper Application

(for discussion purposes, what 1-2 words stand out *to you* as you hear the Scripture read aloud)

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?

3. How can we help you?

Close in a Time of Prayer

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?



Text: Matthew 16:21-28

PLAIN TRUTH:

_____ is taking _____,
yet to be found is _____ God.

One Year Bible Readings

- Feb. 13: Exodus 35:10-36:38, Matthew 27:32-66, Psalm 34:1-10, Proverbs 9:7-8
- Feb. 14: Exodus 37:1-38:31, Matthew 28:1-20, Psalm 34:11-22, Proverbs 9:9-10
- Feb. 15: Exodus 39:1-40:38, Mark 1:1-28, Psalm 35:1-16, Proverbs 9:11-12
- Feb. 16: Leviticus 1:1-3:17, Mark 1:29-2:12, Psalm 35:17-28, Proverbs 9:13-18
- Feb. 17: Leviticus 4:1-5:19, Mark 2:13-3:6, Psalm 36:1-12, Proverbs 10:1-2
- Feb. 18: Leviticus 6:1-7:27, Mark 3:7-30, Psalm 37:1-11, Proverbs 10:3-4
- Feb. 19: Leviticus 7:28-9:6, Mark 3:31-4:25, Psalm 37:12-29, Proverbs 10:5

February 12 & 13, 2022