

SAVING YOUR LIFE BY LOSING IT

Introduction – Some think Christianity is only about saving your soul so you will go to Heaven when you die. Jesus had a radically different view about what it meant to really follow Him. The Christian life is not the great escape. Instead it is about restoring our true identity through Christ.

A. Jesus True Identity!

Luke 9:18-20

1. What do the crowds say about Jesus today?
 - a. A recent poll shows that 82% of Americans believe that Jesus actually walked the earth about 2,000 years ago.
 - b. Another poll shows that 73% believe in the virgin birth of Christ.
 - c. Another poll shows that 69% believe Jesus was bodily raised from the dead.
2. When Peter confessed his belief that Jesus was God's Messiah, did he really know what this meant?
3. Do 69% of Americans live like they understand the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

B. What it meant for Jesus to be God's Messiah.

Luke 9:21-22

1. Most of us act like Jesus warned us not to tell anybody about His true identity.
2. Jesus must suffer many things.
3. He will be rejected by the earthly leadership of God's people.
4. Finally He would be killed because He acknowledged His true identity.
5. God offers the resurrection hope through our identifying with Jesus.

C. What we must do to be an authentic follower of Jesus.

Luke 9:23-26

1. Self-denial is the rejection of our selfish desires so we can follow Jesus' example.
2. Taking up our cross daily means we must be willing to sacrifice everything and suffer anything, even death, in order to follow Jesus.
3. What has it cost you to follow Jesus?
4. Do we really believe we save our life by losing it?
5. If we lose or forfeit our true selves, what difference does it make if we win everything this world has to offer?
6. The reason most followers of Jesus are not evangelistic is that they allow themselves to be shamed into silence.
7. We have to renew our commitment to follow Jesus daily!

Conclusion – Christian baptism is a dramatic portrayal of the new identity we are receiving in Christ by faith. We are crucified and die, buried and then rise again. We die to our old life in order to live a new life centered on Christ.

Romans 6:3-7