

John Piper:

Opposition: Rome – spiritual warfare

Shame: naked, humiliation – emotional

Suffering: torture to death – physical

Death: perhaps pre-mature, even violent – physical

We are constantly tempted to desire, in place of:

Opposition – approval, acceptance, affirmation

Shame – Honor

Suffering – Comfort

Death – Life

DENY

9:46-48 – the argument about “who is the greatest”

Deny your PRIDE

9:49-50 – “non-followers” driving out demons

Deny your BIGOTRY, your prejudices

9:51-56 – Samaritans who would not receive Jesus in their town,

Deny your BITTERNESS, your “how dare you-ness”

9:57-58 I will follow you...

Deny Comfort

9:59-60 Let me bury my father... let me claim my inheritance

Deny Security (in finances)

9:61-62 Let me say good-bye to those at my house...

Deny “contingency plans”

After further review... are you willing to:

Serve others rather than elevate yourself?

Welcome others who are different from you?

Be compassionate to those who don't know any better?

(Reminder: the lost don't know they're lost)

Sacrifice comfort for the Kingdom?

Trust God to provide your needs?

Commit fully to following Jesus – no looking back?

*“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life because of Me will save it.”*

First phrase – “will lose it” – we know we don't want that...

Second phrase – “will save it” – YES, that's what we want...

The difference? “because of Me”

Christ in the equation is what turns the result to “save” your life!

Note: “loses life because of me” is equivalent to “deny himself”

Rhetorical Question:

“What is a man benefited if he gains the whole world, yet loses or forfeits himself?”

...and the answer is... Nothing. Zip. Zero. Zilch. Nada...

There is no benefit available to the man who loses himself...

There is no “benefit” – our life – our eternal life – weighs very heavy in the balance... even “gaining the whole world” cannot budge the scales...

We were created in God’s image... He made us to live forever... if we are making decisions based only on these 80-90 years that we MIGHT live and disregarding ETERNITY, we are being, in a word, foolish. (Luke 12:16-21)

The scales will always tip to eternity... a positive eternity promised by a gracious God and purchased by a loving Savior.

“In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33)

Our Example: Phil 2:5-11

“Logically” the only reasonable choice is to “deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Jesus”... to lose your life because of Him... and thereby SAVE your eternal life!

“Certainty of death, GUARANTEE of success...
What are we waiting for?”

Oorah!

Who Is Jesus?: Our Example

“What are we waiting for?!”

Pastor Scott Gillette

Luke 9:20-25

September 30, 2018

Word Box:

Come with – appear with, come behind/after

Deny – deny utterly, disown

Follow – be in the same way, accompany (be a disciple of)

Save – deliver, protect, make whole

Lose – destroy fully, perish

Benefited – advantaged, profit

Gains – get, win

Forfeits – experience detriment, cast away

A Marine recruitment pitch:

Gimli the Dwarf from the Lord of the Rings...

“Certainty of death, small chance of success... what are we waiting for?!”

If anyone:

Inclusive – “anyone”

Jn 3:16 “whosoever believes in Him will not perish”

Exclusive – “anyone... must”. Only one path

Jn 14:6 “way, truth, life”

FOLLOW

TAKE UP CROSS DAILY