

Sermon: Gaining by Losing.
Series: Luke: The Good News for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 9:18-27.
Date: September 29, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Think about your fantasy version of a perfect life? In what ways would you have to “lose your soul” to gain this life?
- b) Have you ever experienced the paradox of winning through losing? Living through dying? In what way did losing/dying make you more like Jesus?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Read Daniel 7:13-14, Daniel’s vision of the Son of Man. How is the Son of Man described? In what ways is he presented as equal to God? Compare this to Luke 9:26. What is Jesus claiming when he calls himself Son of Man?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Who do you say that Jesus is? Compare and contrast your answer to the crowd’s answers (9:19). To Peter’s answer (9:20).
- b) Read the parallel account of this story in Matthew 16:13-23. Peter gets it right that Jesus is the Christ, but what does he fail to understand? Why must Jesus suffer and die BEFORE he rules and reigns on Earth?
- c) Think about and discuss this truth together: a wrong view of messiahship leads to a wrong view of discipleship.

APPLICATION

- a) Real discipleship means 1) taking up your cross, 2) denying yourself, and 3) following him. In what ways are you trying to do number 3 without having done numbers 1 and 2?
- b) Where or in what way, specifically, do you need to embrace the cross? (Marriage, ministry, work, family, retirement, sexuality, entertainment, spending, neighbors, witness, etc.)
- c) Remember: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” – Jim Elliot

PRAYER

- Thank God for sharing his glory with Jesus so that his way of the cross could lead to glory.
- Confess ways that you have tried to follow Jesus without taking up the cross.
- Thank Jesus for suffering, dying, and rising for us.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live the crucified life of losing to win.