

Full – Life the Way God Intends It: Following Jesus

Luke 9:23-25 And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

1. _____ – Find Your Identity in Jesus

Luke 9:23 If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself...

- What or who are we allowing to shape our identity?
- John 14:6 “I am the Way the Truth, and the Life...”
- You can’t be full of Jesus if you are full of yourself.
- Psalm 17:7 “Wondrously show Your lovingkindness...”
- If you want a full life, find your identity in Jesus.
- Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

2. Take Up _____ – Sacrifice everything for Christ’s mission.

Luke 9:23

- Crossbearing is...
- ...A willingness to _____ with Jesus.
 - Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.
 - Bearing your cross: being willing to share the gospel.

John 15:18-20

- ...An acceptance of inevitable _____.
1 Peter 4:12-13 “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”
- ...A conviction that following Christ is even worth _____.

Luke 9:24-25 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. 25 “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

3. _____ – Keep imitating and obeying Jesus.

Luke 9:23 If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

- Following Jesus means we _____ as Jesus _____.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

- **Following Jesus means we _____ as Jesus _____.**
John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **Following Jesus means we _____ as Jesus _____.**
John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Further Thought:

- What or who has the greatest influence on your identity? If it's not Jesus and God's Word, how do you change your perspective?
- Are you willing to sacrifice anything and everything to follow Jesus? What would that look like this week?
- What would be the most difficult thing to sacrifice to follow Jesus?
- Since following Jesus is an ongoing, daily experience, what steps would you need to take to make sure you are living, loving, and obeying Jesus every day?
- How would following Jesus this week help you experience abundant life?