

**Following Jesus**  
**28, Life's biggest Questions**  
**Luke 9:18-26**

I. Message

a. **Who is Jesus to you?**

- i. This is an important question
  1. They misidentified Him then
  2. Many misidentify Him today
- ii. **"18 And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?"**
- iii. People often misidentify Jesus (all fall short of divine) – v19
  1. John the Baptist
    - a. **"19 They answering said, John the Baptist;"**
    - b. A great teacher
    - c. Jesus was this, but so much more!
      - i. He did not just teach truth, He was truth
      - ii. **John 14:6**
    - d. John the Baptist knew this
      - i. He was calling people to the truth
      - ii. **John 1:36**
      - iii. **John 1:6-14**
    - e. John didn't just teach
    - f. He was teaching about JESUS
  2. Elijah
    - a. **"19...but some say, Elias;"**
    - b. A miracle worker
    - c. Jesus was this, but so much more!
      - i. Interesting how Elijah's miracles point to Christ
        1. Both raised people from the dead
        2. Both fed others with supernatural food
        3. Both were hunted by the authorities
        4. Both, in their own way, cheated death!
      - ii. But Elijah wasn't just performing miracles
      - iii. He was foreshadowing JESUS
  3. One of the old prophets
    - a. **"19...and others say, that one of the old prophets is risen again."**
    - b. Some thought Jesus was just a representative from God
    - c. Jesus was this, but so much more
      - i. He was God in the flesh

ii. **Matthew 1:23**

1. All of the prophets were pointed toward Him

2. **Luke 24:27**

d. Jesus wasn't John the Baptist, Elijah or an OT prophet

e. He was their Subject, their Point

f. The thing they were all talking about!

iv. Peter got it right – v.20

1. **“20 He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Peter answering said, The Christ of God.”**

2. The Christ – Messiah, the promised One

**b. What will you do with your life?**

i. Will you “come after Jesus”?

ii. Or will you chase something else with your life?

iii. Coming after Jesus (being a disciple of Jesus) isn't just lip-service

1. Peter is the first to confess Jesus but also later rejects him

2. Peter knew who Jesus was, but still hadn't put his faith in him yet

3. There is a difference between knowing the doctrine of Christianity and living out a life like Jesus'

iv. **“23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”**

1. Denial of self

2. Taking up your cross daily

3. Following Jesus

**a. In short, it looks like losing your life for Jesus' sake**

**b. “24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”**

i. What an important irony!

ii. And most people miss this

1. Whoever saves his life loses it

2. Whoever loses his life for Jesus, saves it

iii. So, what is the answer to the second big question?

**1. Give your life away**

2. For the sake of Jesus

a. Not just “advancing His priorities”

b. But ignoring yours!

II. **Conclusions**

**a. So, have you confessed Jesus as the Christ yet?**

i. The Lord, the promised one, the Messiah

ii. Everyone will someday – **Philippians 2:11**

iii. Only those that do NOW are saved – **Romans 10:9-11**

**b. Are you actively losing your life for Jesus?**

- i. Read Living Forward several years ago
  - 1. My favorite book to recommend to young people
  - 2. Really interesting challenges
- ii. #1 – Write your own eulogy
- iii. #2 – Prioritize and analyze the health of your “life-buckets”
  - 1. I identified 9 “buckets” in my life
  - 2. You might have more or less
  - 3. The point is to prioritize them and then analyze them often
- iv. I want to share some of those as a challenge to lose your life for Jesus’s sake

**1. Bucket #1 – Personal health – spiritual, physical, emotional**

- a. How is your health?
  - i. Is this a selfish endeavor for you?
    - 1. To look good
    - 2. To live longer
  - ii. Or an eternal endeavor?
- b. Have you ever asked it this way? Am I healthy enough physically, spiritually, and emotionally to serve Jesus faithfully for the rest of my life?

**c. 1 Corinthians 9:27**

- i. Maybe you have never even thought of this:
  - 1. Are you doing what you can to live long enough to serve Jesus in retirement?
  - 2. Are you healthy enough now physically, spiritually, emotionally to provoke others to love and good work?
- ii. What could you do to improve this “for Jesus’ sake”?

**2. Bucket #2 – Marriage**

- a. How is your marriage doing?
- b. Would you like it to improve?
- c. Why would you want it to improve?
  - i. Are there eternal implications?
  - ii. This is what Paul said: **Ephesians 5:32-33**
  - iii. What needs to change for people to see Jesus more clearly in your marriage?
  - iv. If you are not married, are you giving THAT over to the Lord?
  - v. Are you staying pure and trusting Him?

- vi. What could you do to improve your marital status “for Jesus’ sake”?

### **3. Bucket #3 – Immediate family**

- a. Does your family demonstrate Deuteronomy 6 living?
  - i. Is family life about spiritual nurture and admonition like Ephesians 6 describes?
  - ii. How much of God and His glory consumes your family’s attention?
    - 1. Or is family life about accumulating stuff?
    - 2. Or accumulating experiences?
    - 3. Or is it one big argument?
      - a. That is NOT Jesus’ priority for your immediate family.
      - b. Jesus’ priority is that the next generation is going to have stronger faith!
    - 4. That only happens by intentionally giving up YOUR priorities and adopting Jesus’ instead

### **4. Bucket #4 – Extended family**

- a. Do your interactions with your extended family advance the priorities of Jesus?
  - i. Are you honoring your parents? (still 1 of the big 10)
  - ii. Are you actively helping with the next generation(s) pursue Christ?
  - iii. What could you do to improve your relationship with your extended family “for Jesus’ sake”?

### **5. Bucket #5 – Friends**

- a. Are your friendships redemptive in nature?
  - i. Evangelistic
  - ii. Discipleship oriented
  - iii. Good for you spiritually?
  - iv. Talking about true fellowship
- b. What could you do to improve this “for Jesus’ sake”?

### **6. Bucket #6 – Ministry**

- a. Are you finding ways to serve the Lord by serving His bride, the church?
  - i. Macro – every believer should find a way to serve the body corporate
  - ii. Micro – every believer should minister on an individual basis to other believers

- b. 2 Timothy 2:2
- c. Titus 2 living
- d. What could you do to improve this “for Jesus’ sake”?

### **7. Bucket #7 – Community**

- a. Are you a positive influence for the cause of Jesus Christ in your community?
- b. Is there a better way for you to participate in city functions on behalf of Jesus and His priorities?
- c. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

### **8. Bucket #8 – Finances**

- a. Are you financially “balanced”?
- b. Are you staying out of debt and living within your means so that you have the freedom to give generously?
- c. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
  - i. Many of the believers here at FBCW give 10% of their income to the Lord through the church
  - ii. Why not you?
    - 1. What is holding you back
    - 2. Too much holding on and not enough losing?
      - a. Why would someone do that?
      - b. How can they justify that kind of “LOSS”?
      - c. They are actively losing their life for Jesus
      - d. Losing their resources to gain the priorities of Jesus
      - e. Seeking His kingdom before their own

### **9. Bucket #9 – Hobby**

- a. Jesus says, “Lose your life for my sake”
- b. Does your “free-time” have any eternal benefit?
  - i. Could you redeem it?
  - ii. Could you use for eternal benefit what you enjoy for relaxation?
  - iii. Are you finding valuable and productive things to do, even with your down time?
  - iv. Could you bless others while exercising your giftedness?
- c. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- d. What could you do to improve this “for Jesus’ sake”?