

THE JESUS LEGACY

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LORD AND SAVIOR

John 14:7-12 (NIV) If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” **8** Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” **9** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Essential to the gospel is an invitation to be like Jesus and continue His legacy of doing all the miraculous works that He did while on earth. In **John 14:7-12** Jesus tells Philip and the disciples that He revealed the Father both through His words and His works. Jesus then went on to tell the disciples that by believing in Him (following after, trusting in, making Him Lord) they would also do the works that He did (and even greater works). **John 14:13** goes on to say, “Whatever you ask in my name I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” The call of being a disciple of Jesus is essentially this - to deny oneself, take up his/her cross and follow Him. In doing this we glorify the Father through our words and works and point others toward Him. Salvation is the gift, Discipleship is the call, Jesus is the Legacy.

According to a Gallup poll conducted in December 2015, 75% of Americans identify with a Christian religion yet our culture is pointing to a lot of other things besides the Father. The fact is that most self-identified Christians accept the gift but don’t answer the call.

READ: Matthew 16:13-26

Jesus asked His disciples, “who do men say that I am?” His disciples had a lot of answers and in this day and age we could offer up a few of our own, ‘good man’, ‘teacher’, ‘rebel’, ‘prophet.’ The world, and even some Christians, will offer up many options but there is only one answer: *Messiah, the Son of the Living God*. Jesus is still asking this question today and for those who have proclaimed Him as Lord, the journey of faith requires a daily surrender – choosing to let Him be Lord and King and not just a good influence. Jesus wants to be both Savior and Lord of our lives.

JOURNAL OR DISCUSS: Jesus as Savior is what Jesus rescues us from; Jesus as Lord is what Jesus delivers us into. Compare and contrast these two statements. What does it mean to surrender our lives to His Lordship? In what ways are you tempted to make yourself king of the kingdom?

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Galatians 2:20 (NIV) For I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, not I but Christ who lives within me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

As believers, we can be tempted to talk about the promise but forget about the price. We must remember that we have been called to a life of surrender, we have to choose death to self and be willing to serve others just as Christ did. While being held in a Nazi prison camp, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “grace is free but it isn’t cheap - when Christ calls a man he bids him come and die.” *If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me for whoever wants to save his life will lose it **but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it.** (Matt. 16:24-25).*

In the sermon this weekend, Freddie told a story about his illustrious track & field career. Here is my meager attempt at putting it in a nutshell for you:

In middle school, under the advice of his coach, Freddie decided to join the track and field team, specifically, the shotput and discus events. There were 5 kids in this event – 2 qualifiers, an alternate and ... the other two. Freddie was one of the other two - so while Freddie was on the team, he wasn’t really into it and would just go through the motions at practice. The qualifiers on the other hand always had the right technique; they understood the discipline. One day a teammate of his was out sick and so Freddie finally had the opportunity to represent his middle school at the track meet as an alternate. Freddie was amped that he was able to go to the track meet; he dressed the part and enjoyed the attention he received at school. That evening, Freddie arrived at the meet and knowing that he was first alternate and not a qualifier, he decided that instead of going with this team to warm up, he would go straight for the snack bar. He spent the entire warmup eating nachos and just kickin’ it while the other kids got serious. He enjoyed the benefits of being a part of the team but didn’t put any effort in. From then on, He was known the “Nacho kid.”

For some of us that is our Christianity story. We got the right look, the right song; we got the gear, we’re carrying the right equipment but if we aren’t willing to live it out Monday – Friday we are missing the bigger picture. God is not enlisting first alternates. Jesus did not do what he did so we could sit on the sidelines and not get close to the action. “Don’t be the nacho kid that’s nacho legacy.”

JOURNAL OR DISCUSS: What is your Christianity story? Are you dying to yourself and your earthly ambitions in order to hang out on the front line with Christ? What does it mean to be a sideline Christian? How can you take what you’ve learned at practice (in quiet time, at church, in group life), listen to the Coach (Jesus) and follow Him to the front line? List some practical ways Christ is calling you to live out Galatians 2:20.

MOVING FROM THE SIDELINES TO THE FRONT LINE

Moving from the sidelines to the front lines requires sacrifice. What do you do when no one else is looking? Do you pray for those who persecute you (**Mt 5:33-34**)? Do have a biblical understanding of adversity and consider it pure joy (**James 1:203**)? Going back to Matthew 16, we can relate to Peter in the sense that sometimes our ideas are in conflict with God's ideas. Like the Israelites we might be tempted to hold manna in our hands and say "what is this?" and complain about our wandering when God is leading us to something far greater. The kingdom of God comes to life when we put to death our own ambition.

Consider the story of Elijah. In **1 Kings 18** Elijah calls fire from Heaven to the recently repaired altar of God. Fire falls from heaven and the nation of Israel rallies against Ahab and his Baals (false gods). This event is the culmination of Elijah's public ministry. Immediately following this scene, Jezebel issues a death warrant against Elijah and he flees for his life, eventually wandering into the wilderness. God sees Elijah and hears his cries for mercy and death and sends an angel to comfort and feed him - after Elijah has rested and regained his strength he journeyed to Horeb where he spent the night in a cave and had an encounter with the Living God.

Read 1 Kings 19:9-21.

When Elijah lays the cloak on Elisha the yoke of both the burden and blessing of living for the Kingdom purpose hits his shoulders and he chases after it. Elisha knew about the miraculous fire from heaven falling on the altar and the testimony of God. Elisha felt something that compelled him – he knew there was no going back – it's almost as if he said "I will never again depend on this stuff (oxen) because I trust what is ahead." In the journey of Christianity the only difference between the testimony and test is obedience. Imagine what would have happened if Elijah had refused to press on or if Elisha thought it was too hard to move from the sidelines to the front line?

JOURNAL OR DISCUSS: What is Jesus waiting on you to burn away in your life? What would it look like to give it all for a life worth living? In taking the next step, where do you sense God is leading you and what do you think you need to get there? Do you need wisdom, courage, vision, breakthrough?

DEVOTIONAL

As a small group, access the Weekly Devotional by going to www.chapel.org, go to the **GROW** link at the top of the page and select **WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS** from the dropdown and then select **JESUS IDENTITY: WEEK THREE**.

PROVIDE US WITH FEEDBACK

We are excited about the potential these studies have to help each of us process the weekend message at a deeper level, and to see God change our lives in significant ways. In order to make these guides as helpful as possible, we would love to hear which elements are most helpful, which are least helpful, as well as any other comments, questions or suggestions. Feel free to send your feedback directly to Jon Holmberg at gabrielslyric@msn.com.