

Small Group Notes

Date: 22/05/2022

Speaker Name: Sam Miller

Title: The Cost of Discipleship

Key verses: 2 Corinthian 1:3-9, Matthew 4:1-11

Talk Summary

Baptism is more than a novel religious symbol, it is a matter of life and death. To follow Jesus is an invitation into suffering, in to a life of costly sacrifice. We see this in the example of the persecuted church and in the life of Jesus and the early disciples in the bible.

Baptism is a declaration of:

- Affection – That we love Jesus and that he is our priority, he is worthy of all of our life. Wang Mingdao's encouragement to us in the west was to "Build yourself a cell. And lock yourself in with Jesus. That you might know his goodness and his sustaining intimacy."
- Vision – He calls us now to wake up to reality, to not just live for empty selfish lives but to live for something greater than ourselves. To see life through the lens of faith and confidence in the reality of God his presences and his power. What are we living for?
- Hope – a hope in and for a greater future. God comforts us so we can bring others peace. In sharing Jesus, it is costly but in that suffering we experience a different kind of comfort, a comfort which we can share and the world needs. A comfort which is life long and eternal. (2 Corinthians 1:3-9)
- Resistance – Against self and the world and the devil. Jesus was temptation in the wilderness to accept self-sufficiency, to deny the reality of God and to choose the devils short cuts to success. Jesus understands the battle ground and the opposition. Jesus endured and overcame and encouraged us to do the same. In times of crisis, in times of war all of life is different, we need to train, we need to sacrifice. How are you being called to live differently?

Baptism is an external sign of an internal reality. An awakening of life lived in and through God's power and presence. Baptism is a doorway into a new daily pattern of living and walking with God. Baptism is a rejection of death and an acceptance of new life in Jesus. Where the shackles of Sin, self and Satan have been broken. Let us not lose focus on the reality of the good news of what Jesus has done for us.

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group, then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

1. "To follow Jesus is an invitation into suffering, in to a life of costly sacrifice". How does this statement make us feel? Is this how we see the Christian life?
2. In what ways have we embraced the worlds invitation into comfort and self-protection? How would our faith and our lives look different if we embraced discomfort?
3. What does it look like to live a life of resistance to sin, self and Satan? How can we encourage and support one another in that?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?