



“You Must Lose Your Life”
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“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”
Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

Something Peter Wished Jesus Never Said

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16:21-23 (NIV)

THE ISSUE:

THE CONCERNS OF GOD VERSUS MERE HUMAN CONCERNS

The “Life” Jesus Rejected in the Wilderness

1. A LIFE IN SERVICE TO _____.

The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:3-4 (NIV)

2. A LIFE IN SERVICE TO _____.

Then Satan took him to Jerusalem to the roof of the Temple. “Jump off,” he said, “and prove you are the Son of God; for the Scriptures declare, ‘God will send his angels to keep you from harm,’ . . . they will prevent you from smashing on the rocks below.”

Jesus retorted, “It also says not to put the Lord your God to a foolish test!”

Matthew 4:5-7 (LB)

3. A LIFE IN SERVICE TO _____.

Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.'"

Matthew 4:8-10 (LB)

THE LIFE JESUS REJECTS IS THE LIFE
FROM WHICH WE STRUGGLE TO BREAK FREE

Something Peter Wished Jesus Never Said, Continued...

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Mark 8:34-37 (NLT)

When you _____ for yourself, you merely _____.

When you _____ for God, you truly _____.

HOW WE FIND OUR LIVES IN LOSING THEM

1. By rejecting what keeps you from _____ Jesus.

Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Mark 10:21-22 (NLT)

2. By _____ your life to Jesus every day.

[Jesus] died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

Among you it is quite different. Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave. Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28 (LB)

3. By adopting God's _____.

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

2 Corinthians 5:16 (NLT)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

4. By routinely nurturing the _____ in you.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Sources: *The Daily Bible Study: Matthew Vol 2* by Barclay, *The Communicator's Commentary: Mark* by McKenna, and various illustrations from Preaching Today.

ANSWER KEY:

1. A life in service to **MATERIAL THINGS**.
2. A life in service to **HUMAN PRIDE**.
3. A life in service to **FALSE IDOLS**.

When you **LIVE** for yourself, you merely **EXIST**.

When you **EXIST** for God, you truly **LIVE**.

1. By rejecting what keeps you from **FULLY EMBRACING** Jesus.
2. By **GIVING AWAY** your life to Jesus every day.
3. By adopting God's **POINT OF VIEW**.
4. By routinely nurturing the **NEW PERSON** in you.