

Life Group Material – or notes for your own study

Living the Kingdom Way (Luke)

Week beginning 14/10/2018

(to be preached at AS on 21/10)

Counting the Cost – Luke 9:18-27

Session

6

Starter – dwelling in God’s presence

Roy Godwin at IGNITE reminded us last weekend that ‘where two or three gather together in my name, there am I with them’ (Matthew 18:20)

Light a candle and spend some time in silence, reflecting on God’s presence in your midst. Bring to him any burdens you may have this day, and open your heart to him now.

Read Luke 9:18-27 through together and then have a couple of minutes silence, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

- What strikes you most when you read it?
- How does it make you feel?

Jesus begins by asking the question ‘who do you say I am?’

- If Jesus asked that question to you, how would you reply?
- If you asked the question ‘Who do you think Jesus is?’ to your friends, family and colleagues who don’t come to church, what do you think they would say?

In this passage we reflect on another ‘hard saying of Jesus’

Jesus says to his disciples **‘if anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me’ (v23)**

- Apart from the obvious thing of Jesus literally taking up his cross, what did it mean for Jesus on a day to day basis to ‘take up his cross’?
- What do you think this means for us on a day to day basis?

Alice in her sermon will say *‘The most miserable life of all is the half Christian life – where we hear the call of God to surrender but we stay firmly in the driving seat of our lives – surrendering is the key to life in all its fullness’*

- Discuss your reactions to this! Do you agree? What does this mean for you?

Alice also talks about ‘taking up our cross daily’ involves making choices which may seem like **‘little deaths’** (e.g. choosing to forgive the unforgivable, choosing to put aside our preferences for worship, ministry etc. for the needs of ‘younger’ Christians and the ‘outsider’, choosing to let go of the ‘career move’ to focus more on our families and God’s calling etc.)

- What ‘little deaths’ might God be calling you to choose to take to daily follow Him?

Prayer and response

In a time of quiet, be open to God and ask him to show you what he wants to say to you through this passage. How does he want you to live differently and to do differently in the light of this passage?
Share any thoughts you would like to with others and pray for each other.

Last weekend at IGNITE we heard much about praying for blessing on our communities. Spend some time together praying blessing on our communities, families, neighbourhoods, workplaces.