

**Being a Disciple**  
**Sept. 24, 2006**  
Luke 9:18-27  
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Synopsis:

Over the past two weeks we have learned that God's way of reaching the nations is through a slow person-to-person process called discipleship. We have also learned that as disciples we go in the authority of Jesus, do what Jesus did, do it together, depend upon those to whom we go, and get similar results. Today we learn from Jesus the identity of disciples:

Disciples are those who,  
Deny themselves  
Take up their cross daily  
Follow Jesus

I.

Who is Jesus?

9:18 "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

A disciple's identity starts with Jesus' identity

My reply to Jesus:

Jesus, you are the one who meets my needs, makes me feel good, inspires me, answers all my prayers, and says nice things about America.

Come on Jesus, isn't there another way to be a disciple besides cross-bearing discipleship?

Jesus Identity: at 8:25 (storm) 9:9 (Herod) and now

All 4 Gospels report this.

All report conflict when Jesus replies.

Matt and Mark = Jesus rebukes Peter

John = Some leave Jesus

Luke = Jesus rebukes them all

Identity of God/Jesus is tied to our identity:

Augustine—heart is restless until it finds rest in you

Pascal—God shaped vacuum in every human

Calvin—knowledge of God and humans related

Disciples answer is stock answer = Herod Antipas 9:7-9

John Baptist = Essene purifier

Elijah = Messiah forerunner (Malachi)

Ancient prophets = Matt says Jeremiah

\*Messiah = one who fulfills our hopes/dreams  
(Mal 4:5-6)

You, who do you say? Messiah of God (Peter)

\*Messiah = Son of Man who must suffer (Jesus)

Is this what they expected when they came to Jesus?

What do you think they expected?

What do we expect when we come to Jesus?

Work through disciple identity using:

Jesus' commands (deny, cross, follow)

Episodes surrounding this story

Jesus' teaching regarding commands

## II.

Meets My Needs or Deny Myself

9:23 "Let them deny themselves"

Two episodes: Feed 5,000 (10-17)

Transfiguration (28-36)

Jeff: Fill me and thrill me

E.g. My job, California living, my kid's happiness

Deny self? Means giving up not getting more

(American dream)

E.g. not *Your Best Life Now* (Osteen)

Teach: Self-centeredness doesn't work (24) "save self"

### III.

#### Makes Me Feel Good or Take Up My Cross

9:23 “Let them . . . take up their cross daily”

One episode: Heal a demon-possessed boy (37-43)

Jeff: Heal me, fix my problems, stop my worry

Take Up My Cross? = carry to the place of execution

Daily = each morning

Shift from martyrdom to daily living, active suffering

Teach: Greed/seeking life doesn't work (25)

“gain whole world”

### IV.

#### Inspires Me or Follow Me

9:23 “Let them . . . follow me”

One episode: Who's the greatest? (46-48)

Jeff: Fulfill my gifts, dreams (wish-fulfill Messiah)

Follow Me? Suffering Messiah

Divorced family vs. healthy family

PCUSA declining vs. Saddleback or Rock Harbor

Use my best gifts where I'm not vs. where I am

Teach: Being ashamed of Jesus exposes us to judgment (ss26)

“whoever is ashamed of me”

V.

Suffering Messiah Means Suffering Disciples

9:22 “It is necessary for the Son of Man to suffer”

Our identity and Jesus’ identity are related (causes conflict)

Suffering isn’t a formula for successful living  
but for successful discipleship

Peter and Jesus (John 6):

Jesus: “Do you also wish to go away?”

Peter: “Lord, to whom would we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.”