

Your Full and Undivided Attention (Luke 9:18-62)

We're experiencing unprecedented times. We're stepping into a future that feels a lot different than the one we imagined two weeks ago. In Luke 9:18-62 we find Jesus asking us to do the same thing. To step into a future much different than the one we imagined. The result, according to Jesus, is we will actually save our lives. The pathway he lays out isn't easy and according to Jesus will cost us everything. What could possibly be worth everything?

1. The question we're left to answer (Luke 9:18-27)

V20 "*Who do you say I am?*"

Jesus is THE Christ and yes he came to deliver BUT not how the people or even the disciples imagined. Jesus' IDENTITY quickly leads into a clear declaration of Jesus' MISSION.

V23 the non-negotiables: Deny yourself. Take up your cross daily. Follow me.

V24 whoever would save his life (try to hold on to) will lose it. BUT whoever loses his life *for my sake* will save it. V25! Make the comparison!

The cross symbolizes our willingness to give up our lives centered on ourselves – to give up everything else that might be fighting to take the place of Jesus.

This isn't about simply knowing what Jesus says or even agreeing with it, it's about believing and acting on that belief.

2. Your full and undivided attention (devotion) (Luke 9:28-56)

V28 connects the previous statement with these events.

Jesus is transformed (changed). The "veil" is lifted.

Moses and Elijah appear before Jesus. Talk about Jesus' "Departure" = "exodus."

Jesus came to fulfill The Law and the prophets. = Luke 24:27, 44; 2 Peter 1:16-18

V35 "*Listen to him!*" God the Father could have said anything! He said this.

Jesus displays Kingdom power and authority.

While everyone's in awe Jesus pulls the disciples aside and says V44!

3. The decision we're left to make (Luke 9:57-62)

V57 the path isn't easy or comfortable – you sure want "in"?

V59 priority over all things

V61 no half-hearted declarations

True life will never come through self-preservation, it only comes through joyful surrender to Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 9:18-62. Take a few minutes and say what you see in the passage. What observations do you have? What stands out to you? Does anything surprise you?
2. Think about what the disciples have seen and learned already in being with Jesus. What would have contributed to the answer Peter gives Jesus in 9:20?
3. How does the message of Jesus in VV23-26 contradict much of what we hear today about the Christian life and what it means to follow Jesus?
4. Why does Jesus seem to shift quickly from asking the disciples who they think he is to summoning them to follow him, even to death?
5. Consider 9:28-45. What parallels are there between the original "exodus" of Israel from Egypt and Jesus' death on the cross?
6. How are the disciple's actions in VV44-50 ironic in light of what Jesus told the disciples in V44?
7. Read 9:57-62. What is absolutely clear from these verses? Do you feel the radical nature of following Jesus?
8. As you think about your journey of faith, when you are tempted to look back instead of move forward, what helps you move forward?

PRAY: Offer to God your doubts or fears about where Jesus is asking you to go with him. Then ask him to help you see the surpassing greatness and value of life in Jesus.