

SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION - May 24th

Are You All In? (Matthew 10:34-42)

Imagine standing before the love of your life on your wedding day and hearing vows like, *"I'm all in, so long as I don't ever get my feelings hurt. I'll give you my devotion, except when I get bored. I'm committed to you, but not on the weekends."* Hopefully no one would be ok with those vows. In Matthew 10:34-42 Jesus is clear that if you want to follow him you have to be "all in." He says it in a way that shows us what that looks like, what it requires and what it produces.

1. "All in" looks like loving Jesus more than anyone else (Matthew 10:34-36)

2. "All in" requires losing your life for Jesus (Matthew 10:37-39)

3. "All in" produces life (Matthew 10:39-42)

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Matthew 9:34-42. What immediate observations stand out to you?
1. Why do you think Jesus' arrival (and message) creates conflict? Have you ever experienced a time when your faith in Jesus created a "sword" or a division in a relationship? How did you handle that?
2. What does this passage say about following Jesus? What is required?
3. It was said, *"When you love Jesus first, you will love others best."* How does putting Jesus at the center of your life actually change the way you treat your spouse, children, or friends?
4. "Taking up your cross" is not a one-time act. How does viewing it as a "quiet, repetitive decision at 8AM on a Tuesday or 11PM on a Friday" help change your perspective on it?
5. Verse 39 presents a paradox: saving your life leads to losing it. What is one area where you are "self-preserving" (holding onto control or comfort) that is actually stifling your spiritual life?
6. Verse 40 says if someone receives you, they receive Jesus. How does knowing you represent the King of the Universe change the way you walk into your workplace or school?
7. Jesus calls his disciples "little ones" (verse 42), a term for those with low status. How does knowing that Jesus sees and rewards even a "cup of cold water" given encourage you when you feel unnoticed or despised by the world?
8. Jesus is "all in" with you so you can be "all in" with Him. Spend a few minutes as a group reflecting on Jesus' devotion to you. How does His cross make it possible for you to take up yours?
9. The solution to loving Jesus more isn't "trying harder," but looking to his "all in" devotion to us on the cross. How can you practically "lean on his love" this week in a way that will strengthen your devotion and love for him?