

MATTHEW 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”

- *Recap:* last time, we shared the Roman Road as a tool to help remember the scriptures in a simple Gospel presentation. We also discussed the **S A L T**, acronym, speak, ask, listen, tell.
- This week we'll discuss their importance of what we share, when we present the Gospel to the unsaved.
- We'll be doing an injustice if we simply tell people: “Just give your life to Jesus and all your problems will go away”

- Living a life of following Jesus, involves a death. Namely, dying to self:

MARK 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for **My sake and the gospel's** will save it

- Jesus said:

1. My sake
2. And the gospel's

- This means we are to preach His message, *AND* emulate His life
- The central theme in the life of Jesus is radical love and radical sacrifice.

- Jesus gives us insight into the extent of the Christian sacrifice, in this verse:

MARK 10:29-30 Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

LUKE 9:23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, (*only in Luke*) and follow Me.

JOHN 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world **you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

2 TIMOTHY 2:3 You therefore must **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution**.

- We're not to present the Gospel as a life improvement programme, to add to, or to supplement our lives and see if we can fit it into our busy schedules.
- The **WHOLE** truth, is that following Jesus, involves the biggest sacrifice, for the biggest gain.

- We're also not to present the Gospel as yet another religious system of rules. This will produce people who acknowledge Jesus with their mouths, but who's hearts are far from Him:

ISAIAH 29:13 Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men"

- This part of the Gospel will not be acceptable to some:

2 TIMOTHY 4:2-3(NLTSE) "Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear."

PROVERBS 24:10 if you faint in the day of adversity your strength is small.

- The "day of adversity" may include the times we must crucify the flesh
- The true test of discipleship is not how we start but how we finish:

HEBREWS 6:15 And so, after he (Abraham) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise

- The central theme in the life of Jesus is radical love and radical sacrifice.

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Discuss the general attitude that people have, towards difficulty or suffering, in light of the relative comfort or ease, in which we all live.
2. What did Jesus mean when He spoke about losing our lives for His sake AND the gospel's? Why is there this differentiation?
3. Discuss in what ways, our Christian message (through our life's example and our testimony,) is either relevant and effective, or not.