

Reflection Questions: Luke 9:23-27

For the message, "The Cross Before Me" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 23, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 9:23-27

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. **25** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? **26** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. **27** But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it's saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Having just clarified for his disciples in the previous passage who he really is (that is, "the Christ of God") and what his mission included (namely, being put to death, yet rising again in victory), Jesus now clarifies what it means to follow him, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (vs. 23).
 - What is the connection between following Jesus and denying oneself?
 - What is the connection between following Jesus and taking up our cross daily?
 - When do you find this easier to do? When do you find it more difficult?
- In verse 25, Jesus asks, "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" In what ways is this question meant to clarify reality for us? How does it challenge the way we normally think about life?"
- How does this text clarify what God wants to do in our lives? Or to put it another ways, "What kind of me is God calling me to be?"

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How should these words shape and form our community of faith at Mercy Hill Church? In other words, if we really believed that these words not only clarify reality, but define our lives, how might our conversations change? How could we encourage one another to see what Jesus wants us to see here?
- What is the cost if we as a community are not transformed by this teaching of Jesus? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How would these words of Jesus text challenge the thinking of people in our city city?
- How does these words actually serve as Good News for those outside the faith?