Small Group Sermon Based Questions

Message #2: The Cost and Reward of a Practice-Based Life

Series: Our Compass (Every Person Growing in Christ)

1. In light of the story of the rich young ruler, and the various people making excuses for not following Jesus (Luke 9), discuss the following paragraph:

*In order to take the first step towards Jesus and then keep following, we must leave something behind. There must be a detachment from idols and inordinate affections. This is why a supernatural conversion experience is required. And depending on the strength of or devotion to the attachment, we may decide to press pause on our decision to follow Jesus.*

1. Question: Why doesn’t everybody follow Jesus into a life of transforming discipleship?

Answer: Because there hasn’t yet been a personal revelation of Jesus that makes everything else pale in comparison!

Do you agree with this? Why or why not? (Consider Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians in 1:17-18. Consider also the parables of Jesus parable in Matthew 13:44).

1. *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. “But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.****27****The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” (Matt. 7:24-27)*

How does this text speak for or against a “practice-based faith”?

4. What are the practices involved in Jesus’ invitation:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? ***Come*** ***to me***. ***Get away with me*** and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. ***Walk*** ***with me*** and ***work*** ***with me***—***watch*** how I do it. Learnthe unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. ***Keep company with me*** and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

What would it take for you to order your life around the practice of these various actions/practices? (italics)

1. “If we want the life of Jesus, we must embrace the lifestyle of Jesus.”

What is the “lifestyle of Jesus” that transferable to us today? What did he do that he’s calling us to do? How did the private life of Jesus in relationship with his Father sustain him for his public life with people?

5. What spiritual practices are working for you? What practices are you feeling prompted to begin?