



Series: Emotionally Healthy Discipleship

Sermon: Part 3: Following The Crucified Jesus

Date: Sunday, November 2nd, 2025

For those who follow Jesus, we can even mistakenly _____ the American Dream for our expectation of what it means to follow Jesus.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: Matthew 16:21-23, Luke 16:15

It is only through this dying to ourselves and our own will that we can truly experience resurrection and embrace God and His will for our life.

The Culture's Discipleship	Jesus' Discipleship
Seek popularity	Reject popularity
Seek greatness	Reject greatness-ism
Seek being successful	Reject success-ism
Avoid suffering	Embrace suffering

Scripture referenced in sermon message: Matthew 23:5, John 5:44, Matthew 3:17, Matthew 25:23

While striving for greatness isn't inherently wrong, it becomes problematic when it inflates our ego and fosters _____.

Scripture referenced in sermon message: Matthew 18:4, 1 Corinthians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 12:9

Rejecting Greatness-ism: Questions To Ask Ourselves:

- When are my plans and ambitions legitimately for the glory of God and when do they cross the line into my own desire for greatness?*
- What opportunities has God placed before me to be lowly with the lowly, to be little with the little?*

- Am I prepared to appear foolish, even to the point of seeming like a failure?
- Can I patiently wait on God instead of manipulating people and plans for greater numerical growth in my career, finances, and ministry?
- Am I prepared to be a peacemaker, as Jesus demonstrated, and address conflicts directly instead of ignoring them, even if it makes the situation, family, or organization appear worse in the short term?

- Am I prepared to reduce my commitments and activities to ensure I prioritize my relationship with Jesus and my relationships with those I am closest with?
- Am I prepared to dedicate time to grieve the losses in my life, to look at my pain, my trauma, and my feelings? Am I willing to go to those places with others, even if it means appearing vulnerable?
- Am I willing to be honest about what is actually happening in my life and to not exaggerate?



Embracing Jesus' Discipleship:

1. _____ in Jesus

Scripture referenced in sermon message: John 6:29

Some Markers That Indicate If We Are Relaxing In Jesus:

- *Enjoying communion with Jesus even in the midst of storms*
- *Being less and less triggered when things don't go as I planned*
- *Being present to the beauty and wonder of those around me*
- *Experiencing contentment in caring for the people God has put in my life*
- *Embracing the season that God has placed me in*
- *Knowing that in Christ, I have nothing to gain and nothing to lose - that I only want God's will for me and my life*

2. _____ for Jesus

3. _____ to Jesus

Discretion flows from a place of stillness and silence with Jesus and it gives us prudence, good judgment, and the wisdom to act appropriately in different situations.

Bottom Line: *Taking steps to embrace Jesus' discipleship ways of rejecting seeking popularity, greatness-ism, and success-ism while we embrace suffering is counter-cultural, especially in a culture that can often seek the Americanized Jesus, not the crucified Jesus.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

1. *In what ways can Christians mistakenly substitute the American Dream for our expectation of what it means to follow Jesus?*
2. *How is having an understanding of and following the crucified Jesus connected to being transformed into His likeness and growing into emotionally healthy disciples?*
3. *What is a next step you can take this week to relax in Jesus, detach for Jesus, and listen to Jesus as you continue to grow in your emotional and spiritual health?*

Songs used in service: Holy Forever (Chris Tomlin), Behold The Lamb (Passion & Kristian Stanfill), I Surrender (Taya Gaukrodger & Matt Crocker), Firm Foundation [He Won't] (Cody Carnes)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?