

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK THREE *FOLLOW*

ICEBREAKER: Are you into the rodeo? Have you ever ridden a mechanical bull?

STORY: Who is sharing their story this week? 3 positives and 3 negatives that have impacted who you are today.

LEADER: We are continuing in our Sermon Series *Follow* and exploring what it really means to follow Jesus and have a relationship with Him. Matthew 16:24-25 is the foundation for this.

READ: Matthew 16:24-25

QUESTION: Patrick said the follow me part is easier to grasp than the denying yourself part. Why does denying ourselves include being honest about our mistakes? **(we drop our self-protection and pretense & deal with our sin)**

READ: Romans 3:23

QUESTION: How does the Bible define sin? **(Missing the mark)** What example did Patrick use to illustrate this? **(Bullseye - anything outside of perfection)**

QUESTION: Are there categories of big and little sins in terms of missing the mark? Why do we like thinking that way? **(Sin is sin – we've all missed the mark. All sin is destructive in some way. We like to try and rank ourselves up. God doesn't look at people as good or bad)**

READ: Romans 6:1-4

QUESTION: What is the tension that exists when we begin a new life with Christ and are forgiven and declared holy by His

grace? (We have to walk out our faith in the culture & families we live in. We have to accept that we can't be good enough to make up for our bad)

READ: Romans 7:18-25

QUESTION: What makes dealing with the reality of our sin so difficult? (It is connected to how we think of ourselves)

QUESTION: Because of this, what do we often do?

1. Minimize it. Let the culture dictate the standard of what's healthy. Whatever makes you happy
2. Maximize it. Beat ourselves up. This can be a result of performance standards growing up at home & school or in marriages, or church.

READ: Romans 6:5-7 and Galations 5:16

QUESTION: What does freedom look like for a believer who wants to follow Christ? How is walking by the Spirit related to being able to do that? (We can walk in the light & not pretend. We can be vulnerable.)

READ: I John 1:8-9

QUESTION: What is confession of sin? (Being honest, agreeing with God, calling it what it is & deciding to go the other direction)

LEADER PRAYER: *God help us recognize and own the things in our lives that are getting in the way of our relationship with You or with others that need to change. Help us have the courage to follow You. In Jesus, name. Amen*

LEADER: Encourage people to sign up online (rpc.me/baptism or westend.me/baptism) for Palm Sunday Baptisms and plan to come and support them. Who will share their story next week?
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