



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Bible Reading: Luke 17:20-37

The Kingdom of God ('the domain where God is King') is not a matter of location, being here or there, but it is a matter of people, being in our midst, because the King dwells with us.

In the days of Noah & Lot, we see that we can get too comfortable eating, drinking, buying, selling, building, planting, that we can easily neglect God's call and fall away to destruction.

"The surprise about *Jesus the Messiah* is that he came to live a life of sacrificial, dying service before he comes a second time to reign in glory. And the surprise about *discipleship* is that it demands a life of sacrificial, dying service before we can reign with Christ in glory." (John Piper)

Our prayer is that we wouldn't just hear the confronting challenge, but to hear the gracious invitation: Jesus isn't just saying you have to lose your life, Jesus is saying, this is how you find life!

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: What is your favourite story from the gospel narratives?

READ: Luke 17:20-37

- The gospel narratives are filled with Jesus talking about the Kingdom of God. How would you explain the Kingdom of God? What are the important aspects of it to understand?
- Do you see similarities between the days of Noah and Lot, and our days? What does this all mean for us? You can read their stories in Genesis 6 & 19
- Read Luke 9:23-27; 9:57-62; 14:25-33. What does all these have to say about our discipleship? In light of that, discuss the following quote. Do we believe all this, that if we lose our life, we truly will find it?
"The idea that following Jesus teaching will lead to a boring life is one of the most effective narratives employed by the enemy of our souls. Satan and his minions know all too well that real joy is found only in obeying Jesus' commands. But with a twist here and there, and with the help of well-meaning, mis-guided religious folk, the Christian life can be portrayed as a holy bummer. The devil wants people to fear the high cost of discipleship, but in reality, the cost of non-discipleship is much higher. The question is not, What will I have to give up to follow Jesus? but rather, What will I never get to experience if I choose not to follow Jesus? The answer is clear: we will forfeit the chance to live a good and beautiful life." (James Bryan Smith)

CONCLUDING THOUGHT: True and everlasting life is found in knowing and living with the King (see John 17:3)

We would really encourage each group to make a commitment to read through Luke leading up to Easter. Maybe decide to do it together as a group and find a way to encourage each other and keep everyone accountable (ie. take turns sharing a 'verse of the day' from the reading on a messenger group).

PRAY: Praise God that he comes into our world and shows us 'The Way' to life, that we actually have a roadmap forward that, while challenging, is satisfying and fulfilling. Pray that we would grow as followers of Jesus and know how to live like Him in our day and age.