

2. The CHOICE Every Disciple Has To Make To Seek REAL Life: Through Death To Self.

John 12:23-26

We have to choose to follow Jesus to a fulfilling life, trusting He knows the way, or we CHOOSE a different path Everything around us tells us that the way *to fulfillment, the way to meaning, the way to satisfaction, is by focusing on ourselves, seeking our own way, putting ourself first and making sure that the path we walk is easy.* Jesus says the opposite! Jesus says, listen, *"If you want to find REAL LIFE, you find it by giving your life away, JUST LIKE ME!* That is the very essence of the Shadow of The Cross. The Cross brings life...and Death...into the correct focus!

Jesus uses an illustration that anyone can understand. Plant a single seed of corn...get a much larger return.

Jesus demonstrated the principle by choosing to lay HIS life down...so that millions for generations would have life!

- Truth: Jesus has the truth...not the world in which we live. All Promise/no delivery
- Choice: Unless: There is a choice we have to make: We can choose to die to self, or live for self
Live to self: *Remain alone: All about yourself (God loves wonderful plan)*
Die to self: *Multiplies like the corn (Costly, but impactful others)*
- Outcome: Plant a single seed of corn...Plant 2-4, 800-1200 (1600-4800)
- Honor: For us! (When we SERVE like Jesus...Honored like Jesus! 26) Well Done
For God: He is glorified by our actions! Point people to Him, See Change

CONCL: The Cross of Christ throws a Shadow...Not Just in HIS life...but down through the centuries into our life as well. In exactly the same way that Jesus lived His life in the Shadow of the Cross...we do so as well. It was never intended that the Cross of Jesus in our life was JUST about us...and our Salvation.

The Shadow of the Cross CALLS us to bring others to Jesus, and to make the CHOICE to lay our life down for others.

Many disciples of Jesus through the centuries have heard that call and made that choice!

John Geddie, the father of Presbyterian missions in the South Seas. Spent a life time trying to reach Islanders. On the pulpit where he preached for years they placed a memorial tablet after his death.

"In memory of John Geddie, D.D., born in Scotland, 1815, minister in Prince Edward Island seven years, Missionary sent from Nova Scotia to Aneiteum for twenty-four years. When he landed in 1848, there were no Christians here, and when he left in 1872 there were no heathen."

2 Questions To Ask Yourself as You Walk In The Shadow of The Cross Next Weeks

1. Have you accepted the Call of God to bring others to Jesus Christ. Our world, our people, our nation desperately needs to know Jesus. Not some made for TV movie, not some name it and claim it easy believe God's gonna bless you real good religious platitudes. But the Living Christ...power to change their life! Are you like Jesus, and Philip, and Andrew and Paul...Have you heard and accepted the Call to bring them As we exit the pandemic and begin to restore the ministry, I am issuing a CALL...bring others to Jesus!
2. What choice have you made...are your making every day about where you are going to spend your life? In the past 12-18 months I have done one funeral service after another...12-15 of them...and here is what I have seen. Many people have lived their entire life for themselves. When they passed...all they had was their relationship with Jesus. Sometimes not even that! Life was all about them. But some few...Like the Service I did last week, touched the people in their life with the message of eternal life and the Cross of Jesus. What Jesus had done IN them was so powerful that it touched ever single aspect of their life. WHAT ABOUT YOU...What will they say?

Great house! Beautiful Car! Big 401k for their kids! Fantastic vacations.
Or...She touched my life...She led me to Jesus, She was the one God used...
Today...If you have been living for yourself...time to make a change!