



JESUS ON THE ROAD

No Lesser Loves

Week of November 29, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 8:14-22

Jesus came into this world not to give us the same old rhetoric about religion, but to show us how to go from a broken life to a meaningful one. The world has a temporary ruler who wants to bring people into the darkness in any way he can, but Jesus moves toward us and with a touch puts everything right. That touch costs everything, but at the same time it is free. Jesus offers it freely, but we must be willing to lose everything in order to begin a life with him. Until we are willing to lose our grip on what we think is valuable (our relationships, our lives, our self-motivated desires) we will not be able to begin a life in Christ. Once we realize that we want Jesus more than anything the world has to offer, Jesus comes in and fills us—including our relationships, our lives, and our desires—with love and hope. And that changes everything!

Pray

Jesus, what stands in the way of my love for you? What have I put before you that is clouding my vision? Help me release those things that I love more than you. Help me understand that you want me to be freed from the things that distract me from you so you can fill me with what is most important; your love, and your peace, and your life. I am yours, Jesus. Let's begin!

Share Your Experience This Week
#SevernRun

Getting Started

- What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Why?
- Give some practical examples of some “things of the world” that we must give up to follow Jesus.

Listening Deeply

1. Read Isaiah 53. Talk about the details of how the prophesy was fulfilled, even though this chapter was written long before Jesus was born. Use Scripture references to show the fulfillment of Isaiah.
2. Read Matthew 8:14-15. The touch of Jesus puts everything right: what could the touch of Jesus put right in your life this week?
3. “Only a love without limits can blow the limits off life!” What does this mean to you? What are some examples of how the love of Jesus can change lives?
 - A. Go around the room and name three things that are the most important to you. Next read Philippians 3:8.
 - B. This is the high cost of following Jesus; are you willing to put Jesus above those three things that mean the most to you? If you do, how does Jesus bring more to those things than you ever could? (*In other words: Think of Pastor Drew's testimony about his struggle giving up his parents for Jesus. How could this principle apply to your life?*)
4. Why must we give up so much to follow Jesus? Is it easy? Is it worth it?

Living Wide in Jesus

Is your life focused on you—your wants, your needs, your desires? Or are you willing to give up the things of the world to follow Jesus? Is that even possible? Jesus gave up much to rescue us. He gave up his glory to come to us as a baby. He gave up his family and his home to do God's work. He gave up his life so that we might have eternal life in heaven with him and his Father. Shouldn't we be willing to pay any price, suffer any loss, give up anything or anyone that stands in the way of following Jesus' love into eternity. This week pick one thing that competes with Jesus and give it up! Then share that commitment to no lesser loves with your group or church family.