

Jesus Died To Take Me To Heaven | Matthew 9:9 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Goals of Discussion:

- Compare and contrast the following pairs...
 - Minimum Entrance Requirements vs. Whole-Hearted Devotion
 - One-time prayer vs. Follower
 - Christian vs. Disciple
- Reflect and discuss the parts of our lives we are hesitant to give over to Jesus.
- Reflect and discuss the *order* of change...
 - IS: grace then allegiance
 - ISN'T: allegiance then grace
- Pray for those who received the financial gift from The Crossing to pay off their utility bill.

Sermon Reminder: Keith continued the "Bad Ideas that Good Christians Believe" sermon series by highlighting an unfortunate but unsurprising tension – we live in a world where so many people claim to be Christians but are ok living like non-Christians.

Intro Questions:

- What comes to mind when you hear the term "minimum entrance requirements?" What images, thoughts, phrases, and/or feelings come to mind? Why?
- Compare and contrast something you've done with a "minimum entrance requirement" attitude versus a "wholehearted devotion" one. What were you doing? Where and how did the differences show up? Why do you think you had those attitudes?

Question 1

Compare and contrast the ideas of "praying a one-time prayer of forgiveness to Jesus" versus "following Jesus." What images, feelings, thoughts, and/or phrases come to mind when picturing the former? The latter? What changes about these when we compare them side by side?

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Question 2

What do you think it takes to be a "whole-hearted disciple and follower of Jesus", as opposed to living out a life characterized by "minimum entrance requirements and a one-time prayer of forgiveness to Jesus?" Where and how are you intrigued, encouraged, and/or motivated by this? Where and how are you nervous, scared, and/or convicted by it?

Question 3

Compare and contrast the terms "Christian" versus "disciple." First, what images, feelings, thoughts, and/or phrases come to mind when you hear Christian? Now what about disciple? What changes about these terms when we compare them side by side?

Question 4

Keith defined a Christian as, "One who is the subject of King Jesus, the ruler of everything - our lives included (since "Christ" means "anointed one" aka king; it is not Jesus' last name). A Christian is one who is on their bended knee and bowed down before him. It is someone who has moved their allegiance from everything else to King Jesus. We have moved everything over to him - money, future, career, worries, and more. To be a Christian is to say yes to Jesus ruling our lives." How does this definition hit you? Where and how is it different, intriguing, motivating, encouraging, and/or convicting?

Question 5

What is one area of your life that you find yourself being hesitant to give to Jesus? Is it your money, your time, your sexuality, your job, your schedule? Why do you think that is? What do you imagine giving that area to Jesus would, could, and/or should look like? What is the cost of doing so? What are the benefits?

Question 6

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 out loud together. What do you notice about the order of the relationship here? What do you see as primary and what do you see as secondary? Why might this verse be relevant and necessary to keep in mind given the topic?

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⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Sharing & Prayer

- Sharing: What was one thing that stuck with you from this lesson that you want and/or need to take with you throughout the week?
- Prayer: A few weeks ago, The Crossing paid off the utility debts of hundreds of people in Columbia, and those people are just now receiving word of their gift. Spend some time in prayer for those people, especially (a) that they would find joy and refreshment in this gift, and (b) that this blessing would lead them to consider checking out The Crossing in some way (digitally, in person, etc.) with the hopes this would be the next step to help them believe Jesus is more.