

Simple, Not Simplistic

(Mark 8:31-38)

Introduction: Have you noticed that the beginning of the service of some of God's most significant people in Scripture happened in very simple ways? David (1 Samuel 17); Moses (Exodus 3); Peter (Luke 5). Often the word or term "simple" is used in a negative sense in our older English translations of Scripture (Psalm 119:130; Proverbs 1:22)

I. "_____ Yourself"

- A) Simple command may not be simplistic.
- B) Why? Because we don't want to. "I have a right to some things."
- C) Look at verse 34 - "take up his cross" v. 35 - "lose your life"
- D) Matthew 10:33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

II. "_____ Me"

- A) Not what they (v. 34) (the multitude) wanted to hear.
- B) Following Jesus is not about what the multitudes then or today believe.
- C) Peter rebukes the Lord and in doing so we note that it is either God's way or man's way.
- D) "Follow me" does not have the same meaning to most people today.

III. "Be _____" / "_____ Them"

- A) Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38, 41
- B) Have you "denied yourself"? and are you "following Christ"? (Matthew 28:16-20)
- C) Simple, but not simplistic. It is so deep. (Romans 6:1-9)
- D) Might sound unimportant to some people but what is important to God must be important to me.
- E) How is it "watered down"?
 1. Making it denominational or church tradition.
 2. Not about our parents decision or belief.
 3. Misunderstanding of "grace" & "faith"
 4. Religious training prior to baptism can water it down. (Acts 2; Acts 8:36-39)

Conclusion: There are many ways in which our contact with God begins in "simple" ways. He begins by saying to us "simple" things that anyone may understand if they will agree with God. However, when God says, "serve me" it is far from being simplistic.

My Notes: