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Sermon Notes

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## **Jesus Gives Everything, Demands Everything**

**Matthew 16:21-25**

*Matthew 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.*

Introduction: The Trout and the Rock Climber

One of the most awe-inspiring journeys in nature is that of the **Alaska King Salmon**

Born in some small stream, perhaps a tiny tributary of a larger stream in Alaska, a King Salmon will swim downstream to the Pacific Ocean, actually acclimating to a salt water existence from the fresh water in which they were born. They swim as far as 2000 miles in the Pacific and Bering Seas as they reach full maturity.

In the summer of their maturity, inner instinct and earth cues guide them back not only to their parent stream, but back to the exact tributary in which they were born.

The journey upstream is an arduous one. The fish batter themselves against rocks while leaping waterfalls. Unlucky ones are eaten by bears and eagles. A great amount of energy is expended in the swim upstream. Salmon in the Yukon River swim up to 2400 miles. Salmon stop eating once they enter fresh water, so their bodies are steadily being depleted of fat. 90 percent of their fat reserves and 50 percent of their protein are consumed in this upstream journey.

After this astonishing journey, the King Salmon reproduce, then die within a week

Who of us has not seen incredible pictures of a King Salmon jumping UPSTREAM against the pounding whitewater of a significant waterfall in northern Alaska? Truly amazing

The King Salmon defies the overwhelming power of Alaskan whitewater every mile of its journey upstream

BUT YET it is NATURAL... all the salmon do it

In our passage today, Jesus Christ is calling His disciples to follow Him in a SUPERNATURAL journey

The Christian life is truly a supernatural life. It cannot be lived in the simple strength of human power—not physical power, not willpower, not mental power... no human power is sufficient to follow Christ for one day.

Why is this? Because Christ calls on us to **deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow him** if we wish to go to heaven.

And each human being is born with a dedication to pleasing self that could best be described as FANATICAL... it is the central idolatry of the human race... we will do almost anything to please ourselves. Only good parenting teaches an infant gradually to lessen this fanatical commitment to self so that we can somehow fit into a world with 6 billion other people who are also naturally fanatically committed to self

The flow of the personality of a human being is an even greater force of NATURE than whitewater or gravity... it is purely NATURAL for each descendent of Adam and Eve to be fanatically devoted to self... to pursue selfish interests in every conversation, in every food choice, in every turn we make in the automobile, in every choice we make at the mall, in every program we watch on TV, in every e-mail we write, in every single solitary choice we make, SELF is a more powerful force than Alaskan whitewater tumbling down a waterfall,

In today's text, Jesus Christ is calling on His disciples to swim upstream constantly against your desire to save yourself, feed yourself, please yourself, promote yourself, prefer yourself, choose yourself, coddle yourself, cherish yourself

He's actually calling on us to be willing to die for Him... to die DAILY in small and large acts of self-sacrifice; perhaps to die ultimately as a martyr if God wills

This is the supernatural life that leads to heaven

It is the LIFE CHRIST HIMSELF LIVED... and it is life He calls on us to live

It is absolutely astonishing how much Christ gave for us

As Jesus died on the cross, as His lifeblood was poured out, as His clothes were being gambled over to fulfill prophecy, as He breathed His last... there was absolutely NOTHING HELD BACK...everything He had to give, He gave

It is also absolutely astonishing how much Christ gives TO us

For Jesus did all this in order to win for us inconceivable wealth in eternity, inconceivable wealth in a heavenly Kingdom: full forgiveness of sins for each one who believes in Him, a new heart, the indwelling Holy Spirit, adoption by the Father, protection from all of Satan's devices, a resurrection body, and an eternity in the New Heavens and New Earth... a personal place at His table, eternal fellowship with a great multitude of saints from every age of church history and from every nation on earth

Jesus GAVE EVERYTHING FOR US SO HE COULD GIVE EVERYTHING TO US

And that is absolutely amazing

But it is just as amazing what Jesus demands from us... for in the same way as He gave everything for us and gives everything to us, every single day of your Christian life He has stood in front of you and demanded absolutely everything FROM you

Anything less than your very best is less than He demands

He demands absolute full obedience to His commands, absolute full dedication to His cause, absolutely everything you possess, everything you have to give, every moment of your life

And when you give it all, He demands you do it for His glory only, expecting nothing earthly in return

***Matthew 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.***

## I. The Relentless Call of Christ: Deny, Carry, Follow, Die

### A. Understanding the Context

#### 1. Jesus' stunning prediction to His disciples

***Vs. 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.***

#### 2. Peter's shocked and shocking reaction to Jesus

***Vs. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"***

#### 3. Jesus' just as shocking rebuke of Peter

***Vs. 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."***

Jesus cherished Peter, loved him, just told him He would give him the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

But now He directly addresses SATAN working in Peter!!

Satan was laying a trap for Jesus through Peter; Sometimes a loved one can speak Satan's words, do Satan's work in our lives

"Bait stick" is the word... like a trap for Jesus' soul... luring Him away from the central mission of His life

Jesus dealt with it vigorously!!

#### 4. The Call to all Disciples

In that setting He gives His call... not just to Peter:

***Vs. 24-25 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.***

#### 5. Peter's Immediate Motive

- a. Not so much concern for Jesus... although that was there
- b. BUT concern for his own interests... Peter's own future was wrapped up in Jesus' earthly kingdom
- c. Jesus had just given Peter the keys of the kingdom
- d. But what good would a place in the kingdom be if the King himself were dead... usually when the King is killed, his counselors are arrested and killed with him
- e. Peter was really motivated by SELFISH INTERESTS
- f. He wanted to "save his own life" and make it as rich and pleasurable as possible

Jesus said: ***"you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."***

- g. Satan's motive is SELFISH: to gain everything for himself
- h. Man's motive is the same: to gain everything for ourselves
- i. The "things of God": to give everything for God's glory
- j. The ultimate end of Peter's selfish focus would come the night of Christ's arrest, when, to save his earthly life he denied Christ three times

#### 6. Christ's Ultimate Victory in Peter's Life

Tradition: He was crucified upside-down in Rome

He conquered his fear, stopped loving his life, and willingly laid it down

#### B. Understanding the Call

- 1. Deny yourself

- a. Say no to what you think are your immediate best interests
  - b. Say no to what you want, what your flesh is demanding
  - c. Turn away from YOU
2. Take up your cross
- a. Willingly stoop to pick up the article of death...Carry the cross
  - b. Not merely theoretical or abstract to Jesus' disciples
    - i) Concrete in their minds
    - ii) Physical article of execution for Rome's worst enemies
    - iii) In the rebellion that follow King Herod the Great's death, 2000 Jews were crucified by the Roman proconsul Varus
    - iv) Crucifixions on a smaller scale were an almost weekly occurrence
    - v) Estimated that as many as 30,000 crucifixions occurred in Jesus' lifetime
  - c. When Jesus told His disciples for the first time that He would die in Jerusalem, their minds perhaps pictured Him nailed to a cross
  - d. When Jesus told His disciples repeatedly in John's Gospel that He would be "lifted up," He left no doubt concerning the manner of His death
  - e. BUT when He told them they had to deny themselves and take up their crosses daily, their minds must have reeled
  - f. What is the cross
    - i) Not merely some distressing burden in life, like a sore back or cancer or a difficult job or a nagging spouse or a rebellious child
    - ii) Many people speak of such as such as "My cross to bear"
    - iii) NO... this is specifically a call to crucify the self... the flesh... the personal interests, personal goals, personal tastes and preferences

George Mueller, used mightily by God to care for the daily needs of 10,000 orphans in his life, when asked the secret of his successful ministry for Christ said this:

"There was a day when I died, *utterly died*; died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will-- died to the world, its approval or censure-- died to the

approval or blame even of my brethren and friends-- and since then I have studied only to show myself 'approved unto God.'"

This is what "Deny yourself and take up your cross" means:

To die to what you want, your dreams, aspirations, preferences, pride... your desire for approval from others, your desire for comfort and security in this world, your yearning for love and success and money and pleasure and fun and and and and and....

### 3. Follow Christ

- a. Follow Christ wherever He goes
- b. He is leading to a daily life of consecration
- c. He is leading to Calvary and to death
- d. He is also leading to resurrection and ultimately
- e. He is leading to heaven

4. Call given to EVERY disciple, not just the apostles

5. Call stands over EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE

***Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross DAILY and follow me.***

### C. Understanding the Cost

1. The Salmon... swimming constantly upstream... against self, against the world
2. Our Fanatical Commitment to Self
  - a. Every single baby born on the face of the planet is born with this one thing in common: a fanatical commitment to self-interest
  - b. This we get from our first father, Adam, who turned away from God to embrace self
  - c. Every single person grows up and feels the constant pull of ONE CENTRAL QUESTION: "What's in it for me??"
  - d. This is OUR problem... we each feel it every single moment
  - e. It's not like genocide or rape or grand theft or premeditated murder, where we have trouble understanding how anyone could be that evil

f. We are well acquainted with this sin... the greatest in the world:  
SELFISHNESS

Richard Baxter, *The Christian Directory*: "Selfishness is the radical, positive sin of the soul, comprehending in seed form and as a primary cause all other sins..." (p. 868)

selfishness is the cause of all wars, all marital squabbles, all lawsuits, all luxury and all poverty, all addictions, all parenting struggles, all church splits, all vaunting ambition... basically all trouble between human beings

Consider how sweet life would be on this planet if this one root sin could be eradicated... love of self

3. Satan's Fanatical Commitment to Self

a. Isaiah 14: Five "I will's"

***Isaiah 14:13-14 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."***

b. Wanting Christ to worship him in the desert

c. During reign of Antichrist, leading the world to worship him

4. The World's Fanatical Commitment to Self

a. Satan has woven selfishness into the worldly appeals with which he destroys human souls

b. Reading a secular magazine, noted one ad after another appealing openly to selfishness

- Cadillac SUV: "Seats seven comfortably, seats one ideally"
  - Another ad was for a diamond anniversary ring: ½ carat caption said, "Oh Michael, you shouldn't have!" The 1 carat caption said "Oh, Michael!"
  - Another ad vacation resort: surround yourself with the luxury you deserve
  - Another ad spoke of a spa where you could shamelessly pamper yourself
- c. Surrounded daily by people who are driving and pushing and striving to meet their own selfish interests... who if you let them go first, will assume it's the way it should be and who look on you as weak; but if you cross them, they will look on you with withering rage

## 5. The Church's Insufficient Sanctification

- a. No eminent saints exist who have finally conquered this sin
- b. Even in church, the godliest men and women fight daily battles against selfishness
- c. Richard Baxter

“Selfishness is the hardest sin in the world to overcome.... The persons that seem to have put sin to death the best, if you do but cross them in their self-interest or opinion, or seem to slight them or have a low esteem of them, what swellings, what heart-burnings, what bitter censurings, what proud impatience, if not schisms or separations will result.”

- d. James said “No man can tame the tongue.” So also no saint seems able to die perfectly to selfishness

## 6. All Add Up to a Constant Battle... the Bitterest of Your Life

## II. The Paradox of Losing and Finding

### A. The World's "Wisdom": Grab All You Can

1. Looking out for number one... it's implied that you must because no one else is going to do it for you
2. Many people in the world live as though snarling junk yard dogs growling over some rival for a half-chewed meaty bone
3. You've got to find your life, live for yourself

Looking out for number one.

### B. Christ's Wisdom: Give All You Can

***Matthew 16:25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.***

1. Living a life of love... losing your life for God and for others
2. It has to do with a daily outlook... not “**What's in it for me?**” but “What can I give today?”
3. This is the way Jesus lived... pouring Himself out for needy people day after day

***2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.***



4. This is the mentality of a servant, and it is the most unnatural thing in the human experience

### C. The Great Paradox

1. The great lie is that this world is all there is, and that living selfishly will make you happy
  - a. Satan pursues his own selfish agenda every single day, and lives in a constant rage because he knows his time is short
  - b. The Antichrist figure in Daniel 11 did whatever he wanted... lived and he pleased, and he was filled with rage when someone opposed him
  - c. Leisure class people in aristocratic societies suffer from all kinds of physical and psychological maladies... even suicide, despite the fact that they have all the world wars to own

Wall Street Journal, May 2, 2007: Jonathan Clements, “No Satisfaction: Why What You Have Is Never Enough”

“We may have life and liberty. But the pursuit of happiness isn’t going so well. As a country, we are richer than ever. Yet surveys shows that Americans are no happier than they were 30 years ago.... We constantly hanker after fancier cars and fatter paychecks—and initially such things boost our happiness. But the glow of satisfaction quickly fades and we’re yearning for something else..”

The article did a good job describing the problem, but had no solutions at all.

Jesus’ statement here is much clearer advice on happiness both now and eternally:

***Matthew 16:25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.***

- d. Getting only what you want all the time is one of the most corrupting things that can ever happen to you
- e. Even worse is to gain the world and lose your soul on Judgment Day
2. To “save your life” means to cherish it to the point of being unwilling to sacrifice anything for Christ
  - a. It means to protect it, to hold it in reserve

***Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?***

The Father did not SPARE His Son

The Son did not save His own life from the cross

But a man who loves his life too much in this world will sacrifice nothing for God or for others... he wants to spare every minute for his own pursuits, every dollar for his own pleasures, every resource ultimately for what he wants

Illus. "A wealthy plantation owner invited John Wesley to his home. The two rode their horses all day, seeing just a fraction of all the man owned. At the end of the day, the plantation owner proudly asked, 'Well, Mr. Wesley, what do you think?' After a moment's silence, Wesley replied, 'I think you're going to have a hard time leaving all this.'"

Loving our lives in this world means we have become idolaters... and cannot follow Christ where he is leading

People who live like that will lose everything on judgment day:

***Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?***

3. BUT people who let go of everything, willing to serve Christ no matter what, end up finding true life
  - a. To "lose your life" means to accept the path of the cross, serving Christ moment by moment for His glory and the advance of the gospel
  - b. People who "lose" their life actually find it
  - c. A rich life of peace in their conscience, knowing their sins are forgiven
  - d. A rich life of purpose in this world, serving others daily
  - e. A rich life of hope in the future, knowing they are storing up treasure for judgment day
  - f. A rich life of confidence in God, knowing that God will give them what they need to live and to serve Him
  - g. They have found life at last... their search is over!!

#### D. The Great Reversal

1. Judgment Day will change everything
2. On that day, those who have lived to gain everything will lose everything
3. On that day, those who have lived to lose everything for Christ will gain everything
4. The lowliest servants will become the most exalted Kings

5. Wisdom is to live in light of that reversal

### III. Denying Yourself and Taking Up Your Cross Daily: Case Studies

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said in his classic work, *The Cost of Discipleship*, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”

In how many ways does this call come? The more I meditated on this the more pervasive this command seemed to be

#### A. Initial Conversion

1. Rich Young Ruler, “Count the Cost”: Basic Lesson... you cannot be saved if you don’t understand that Jesus demands it all
2. A true evangelist is not going to lie to you and tell you there’s no cost to following Jesus
  - a. It isn’t easy or free to follow Christ!!
  - b. Initial conversion is the first moment of dying to self
3. Nowadays: “Benefit evangelism”: “Here’s what you’ll get: more satisfaction and meaning out of life, a new sense of purpose, strong sense of community, a hopeful attitude, more energy... and you’ll be prepared for eternity to boot!”
4. You know Christ is calling you, but you are afraid what your family will think, afraid of what effect it will have on your life
5. It feels like dying... you want forgiveness, you want eternal life... but it seems to cost

When I decided to go to the CCC retreat where I gave my life to Christ, I felt terrified, like a part of me was dying as I wrestled with the decision on whether to go or not

I realized Jesus would demand it ALL from me... and some vicious enemy of my soul within me HATED the idea of submitting to Christ

The most painful part of my daily Christian life is realizing I am STILL DOING BATTLE with that part of me, and will be until the day I die and am taken into heaven

#### B. Daily Obedience

1. Christ begins to make demands on you at every moment
2. Demanding that you give everything for Him and for the gospel
3. He never ceases to be a King, and He never gives us a moment off from bearing His yoke upon us

4. Every moment of every day belongs to Him... and the essence of my daily walk is fighting the constant urge to rebel, to go off my own way, to please my own fleshly drives and do my own fleshly thing
5. From the first moment you open your eyes every day until you close them in sleep that night, there is not a moment of the day of which Christ does not say "Mine!!"

#### C. Warfare Against Sin

1. The essence of our struggle with sin is a struggle against the selfishness of our flesh
2. The struggle to DIE, to put SELF to DEATH is the core of our walk of sanctification
3. Every single day, every moment of the day, the indwelling Spirit leads us into mortal combat with the FLESH and its desires
4. John Owen likened it to wrestling with a cobra... "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you"
5. You cannot make progress in holiness without dying to yourself

#### D. Prayer

1. Christ leads you to a daily Quiet Time
2. The alarm rings, you groan and your flesh just wants to sleep longer
3. But you know if you don't deny yourself, die to yourself at this moment, you won't get another clear time to pray in solitude the rest of the day
4. You kneel down, and go over your prayer list
5. The Holy Spirit brings people to mind... your flesh wants to stop praying, Christ wants you to care about someone else's salvation, someone else's marriage, someone else's health, a church planted in an unreached people group in Asia, etc.
6. The only way you'll get through that prayer time in a way pleasing to the Lord is to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Christ

#### E. Bible Reading

1. Similarly, you commit yourself to reading through the Bible in a year
2. Perhaps on a given day, you haven't been able to read that day's portion yet

3. You are tired, you've worked hard all day
4. Basically the choice comes down to this: read the Bible like you should, or watch TV or relax or do what you want until bedtime... you face your flesh one more time and have to put it to death
5. So also for Scripture Memorization... it's just a discipline, it doesn't feel like fun, it's not entertaining or easy... and you can only memorize those verses in one way:

**Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Christ**

F. Church Life

1. Saturday morning, there's an outreach in the community... going door to door to invite people to the Health Fair
2. You have tons to do around the house or in school or with your family
3. Or perhaps you have an opportunity to serve as a deacon or Bible for Life Teacher or by leading a women's Bible study or hosting a home fellowship or coming to a two hour prayer meeting or serving on the HOST ministry as a greeter or coming to a Saturday work day weeding flower beds and planting new shrubs
4. Or perhaps it has to do with just regular church attendance... you'd rather not on some random Sunday... but the Lord is calling you

**Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Christ**

5. Or perhaps it has to do with confronting a sinning brother or sister... it will be a painful encounter but you know God is calling you to speak the truth in love to a person who needs to hear it most
6. Healthy church life is a life of constant commitment, sacrifice and daily taking up the cross and following Christ

G. Counseling

1. It is impossible to counsel someone struggling with sin, hurting in marriage, dealing with addiction, suffering from despair without following Jesus' command here
2. You must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus in order to be a good counselor
3. Forget your own troubles and immerse yourself in their griefs

4. Take up THEIR burdens and carry them through a listening ear, earnest counsel, heartfelt prayer

***Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.***

***Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.***

## H. Marriage

Husbands... called on openly to die for their bride like Christ did for His

***Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her***

Perhaps in no other area of human relationship is this such a big issue as in marriage

1. Every single day both the husband and the wife have to learn the drill of self-denial... of seeking your own joy in the blessedness of your spouse
2. For one wife of sixty years I knew, it meant sitting by her husband's bedside, caring for him daily as he had Parkinson's Disease... lovingly feeding him, adjusting his pillows, bathing him... and forgetting about her own life, desires, agenda
3. Marriage is most successful when the couple learns this basic principle: **Deny yourself daily, take up your cross and follow Jesus**
4. It happens when they discuss parenting, finances, important major decisions, minor daily issues... like a wife making her husband's favorite meal, even though she secretly despises it; or like a husband getting up in the middle of the night to investigate some noise out in the garage that his terrified wife is certain she heard
5. Finding your joy in the happiness of your spouse... only when self-denial comes does happiness remain
  - a. The young couple on their wedding day is filled with starry-eyes dreams of bliss and lifelong happiness
  - b. They soon discover something shocking... it's not so much that they didn't truly know their spouse... it's that they didn't truly know **themselves**... namely the depths of their own commitment to selfishness
  - c. Only by learning to conquer that selfishness can a married couple be truly content

## I. Parenting

1. The lessons in self denial only really start taking off when God blesses the married couple with children
2. Some writer put it: God shows you how selfish you are by sending you someone even more selfish than you are... a newborn!!
3. So it develops over years... sacrifices the parents make to raise their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord
  - a. They deny themselves in the middle of the night with a sick child
  - b. They deny themselves years when they make extreme sacrifices to send that child to college
  - c. In between is a daily pattern of self-denial by the parents for the sake of the children
  - d. A father comes home tired from work and one of his kids needs some discipline or some loving counsel or some play time... The father must deny himself, take up his cross and follow
  - e. So also a mother denies herself daily as she cares for her children
  - f. Without it, there can be no training in godliness

## J. Money and Material Possessions

1. Nowhere does Jesus' teaching cut so deeply as in the are of MONEY
2. Jesus called on the rich young ruler to sell all his possessions and give to the poor
3. The world tells you that your money is YOURS and its primary purpose in your life is to MAKE YOU HAPPY...
4. Christ says the primary purpose of our money is to glorify God by faithfully investing it in His Kingdom...
5. To relieve the needs of the poor, to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, to print Bibles for the lost, to support missions, to give tithes to support the church
6. He tells us that giving now is a way of storing up treasure in heaven for eternity
7. BUT if you do not follow Jesus' command, Deny yourself, take up your cross, follow... you will spend too much on yourself, on your own temporal pleasures

## K. Evangelism

1. You will never lead anyone to Christ without following Christ's pattern: deny yourself, take up your cross and follow
2. Workplace: your co-worker is going through a hard time in his marriage; he's unchurched, not a believer, and you've never spoken to him about Christ... the Lord lays him on your heart and you begin to pray for him; next thing you know he is standing in your office talking to you about his troubles... the Lord shows you NOW IS THE TIME... SPEAK UP ABOUT CHRIST... but immediately fear wells up in your heart, it feels like dying... and so it is;
3. Let me say it again: You will never lead anyone to Christ without following Christ's pattern: deny yourself, take up your cross and follow

## L. Missions

1. Jim Elliot's wisdom
2. This is essential to the missionary endeavor: On January 8, 1956, on a dry Amazonian riverbed in steamy Ecuador, Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, Pete Fleming laid down their lives to win the Auca people
3. Though these people were violent and territorial, they resolved not to fire their guns at them in self defense, only into the air to scare their attackers... they died willingly, reasoning that they were ready for death but the lost Auca were not ready because they hadn't trusted Christ yet
4. They came to the jungle to lay down their lives for the lost, and they willingly did that

They gave lives they could not keep to gain a life they could not lose

They gave possessions they could not keep to gain possessions they could not lose

They gave praise from men they could not keep to gain praise from God they could not lose

5. No advance is possible except by people who are willing to die... to die to their own ambitions, to their own comforts, to their own glory, to their own plans... and to give up everything they have to bless some unreached people group