

The Beautiful Life Series

Small Group Teaching Tool

Weekend message preached by Jonathan Rue

Sermon text: Luke 5:1-9

Teaching tool text: Luke 9:57-62

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5.23.10

*Leader: Please see leader note at end

SUNDAY NIGHT SYNOPSIS

Sunday night marked the first night of Joshua House's new series: The Beautiful Life. It is a series focusing on the Sermon on the Mount. Jonathan spoke about the overall structure of the Sermon, and how we should use it in our everyday lives. He discussed how the Kingdom of God is often the opposite of how the kingdoms and cultures of this world operate. He also discussed how citizens of this new kingdom look different than what we would normally expect. Jonathan also dove into the beatitudes and outlined how they characterize the kind of people that are in the Kingdom of God.

TONIGHT'S BIG IDEA

God's Kingdom operates differently than the powers of this world. People who choose to be a part of this Kingdom must follow a different kind leadership—one that cares about things different than what we might normally think are important. Ultimately, any potential follower of Jesus as well as those who have chosen follow Jesus must continue to remember that Jesus call to commitment is radical. It requires our all.

GETTING STARTED (20 minutes)

- Q1.** When you think of commitment, what do you think of?
- Q2.** When you think about commitment to following Jesus, how would you describe how he desires us to follow him?

GETTING INTO THE TEXT (25 minutes)

Tonight, we are going to look at a passage of Scripture that reveals where spiritual growth really comes from.

VS: Read Luke 9:57-62 (TNIV)

- Q1.** Look at the first man that Jesus encounters in this story. He says to Jesus that he will follow him wherever he goes. Why do you think that Jesus responded to him by talking about foxes and birds?
- Q2.** What do you think this man misunderstood about following Jesus?
- Q3.** Do you think that is it easy to misunderstand what it means to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

- Q4.** Look at the second man in verse 59. Jesus invited the man to follow him. Why do you think the man thought it was necessary to bury his father first?
- Q5.** Do think that it is still possible to ignore or put off the invitations of Jesus today like this man did? How do you think the man in this story should have responded?
- Q6.** Why do you think Jesus responded by saying that the dead should bury the dead?
- Q7.** Look at the third man in verse 61. Jesus does not accept the man's delayed discipleship so that he can say goodbye to his family. What do you think Jesus was trying to say to the man with his response about plows and the Kingdom of God?
- Q8.** Overall, what is the bigger concept that Jesus is trying to communicate to us? Should we not attend funerals and ignore our families, or is he saying something bigger and deeper? If so, what is it?
- Q9.** What kind of commitment does Jesus demand from people who would choose to follow him?
- Q10.** In our modern day, there are still just as many distractions that can deter us from fully following Jesus. What are some of those distractions that you see in our culture?
- Q11.** Share a little about your own personal experience. What can you share with the group that has helped you to really understand the call of Christ?
- Q12.** How should we posture our lives to best seek to know and follow Jesus? What are some practical things that we can do to best follow him?