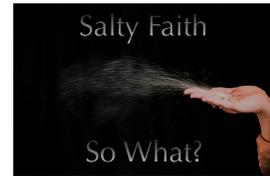




4-22-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“So What?”



Context

This week we begin a new sermon series entitled “So What?” It asks the question, “What difference does following Jesus make in our lives?” This is a big question with big implications. It can make all the difference in the world. In the coming weeks, we’ll explore many facets of this question and take a more specific look at how this question impacts us. For this first week, we simply explore the question in a general sense: Does following Jesus impact daily life? Should it impact life? What does it mean if our lives aren’t being impacted by Jesus?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Think about those who are closest to you – a friend, a spouse, a parent, a sibling, or a child. How does their presence make your life different? What are the specific ways their life impacts yours?

Discussing the Text – Luke 14:25-35

1. What do you think Jesus means in verse 27 when he tells his followers to carry their cross?
2. Do you think Jesus literally wants his followers to hate their immediate family members as he says in verse 26? Why or why not? If it’s not literal, what does Jesus mean?
3. In verses 28-30, Jesus says counting the cost of following him is like counting the cost to build a tower. How do we “count the cost” of following Jesus? What does he mean by this?
4. In verse 33, Jesus says if we do not give up everything, we cannot be his disciples. What does it mean to “give up everything?”
5. As Jesus finishes this discussion, he says that if salt loses its saltiness it is thrown out. What does Jesus mean by this? What does it mean to be “salty” and what does it mean to lose that saltiness? Lastly, what does it mean to be “thrown out?”

So what?

1. What kinds of costs are involved with following Jesus today, living in Iowa?
2. What sacrifices have you had to make to follow Jesus faithfully?
3. How do we count the cost to follow Jesus today? What’s at stake if we don’t do so?
4. What does it mean for an individual to be salt in the world today? What does it mean for the church as a whole?
5. How can individuals and the church regain their “saltiness” if it has been lost?
6. How does this passage give you hope?
7. How does this passage challenge you?
8. How can you apply this passage to your life this week?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group ask God this week to reveal ways their lives are impacted by their faith.