

THE KING WE NEED

Discussion Guide: The Way of the Cross

Passage: Luke 9:37-62

Summary: After Jesus returns from the mountaintop, He finds His disciples struggling in many ways. Rather than writing them off, Jesus invites them to follow the way of the cross and be transformed in the process.

Discussion Questions:

1. The disciples' way of thinking had been distorted, shaped by their world. It said that the way to show your worth was to be powerful or do something great. Jesus said your worth is found in being like a child...dependent and needy. What do you think Jesus meant by that? How do we, like the disciples, have distorted views of where our worth, or greatness, comes from?
2. Along the road, Jesus lovingly confronts the competitive spirit in the disciples that wants to stop another person not in their group from casting out demons. They want exclusive connection to Jesus power and don't like it when they see someone who's not in their group being used by God. Where does this competitive mindset come from and how is it antithetical to the way of Jesus? Do you see this mindset in your own heart?
3. When the Samaritan village won't give them hospitality, Jesus' disciples are ready to call down fire from heaven to destroy everyone. Their mind is on revenge...Jesus' heart is patient and full of mercy. How do you think about people who have offended or hurt you in some way? Do you desire to show mercy and patience like Jesus?
4. Jesus invites his followers to count the cost, see the urgency, and not look back when they follow Him. Are there any barriers or excuses that are keeping you from fully committing to follow Jesus?
5. Take a moment to remind yourselves of this reality: The road itself is not enough. The disciples were still following Jesus on the road, but also had a

long way to go. Their hearts and actions looked very different than the way of Jesus. If we're honest, that's just like us. That's why the road was not enough. It's not enough for us to walk with Jesus on the road and expect we'll be changed. The disciples and we ultimately need where the road was leading...to Jerusalem and to the cross. Without Jesus' death on the cross for us, we cannot be changed.

Take time to pray for one another and ask Jesus to help you follow Him.