



the point of IMPACT

Week 3 Devotionals...

The Impact of Decision

He was excited to meet Jesus. He left the encounter sad. What happened? Jesus gave him a choice, and he decided to keep instead of release. Everyone makes this decision whether realizing it or not. What will you choose to lose?

Monday, April 20

Read Take a look at the encounter Jesus had with the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-30.

Review Sometimes people are not nearly as committed to God as they might appear to be. Jesus' path collided with a young man like that once, and the impact made the point that Jesus does not do half-hearted decisions.

Respond Keep these verses in front of you today, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24 What is one way you need to deny yourself as you follow Christ today?

Tuesday, April 21

Read Luke 18:22

Review Following Jesus is for losers. Most of Jesus' earliest disciples joined the movement because they thought he was a "winner." But Jesus would not alter his mission to lose his life, and he would not change his call to follow no matter who approached him. Every person was given the same decision to make – even the "winners." The man Jesus encountered in Luke 18 has affluence and influence, but he doesn't have assurance of his standing with God. So, Jesus gets to the heart of the matter in verse 22. Jesus is not addressing the duty of charity; he is confronting the problem of idolatry. This "commandment-keeper" has violated the first commandment his whole life.

Respond The rich young ruler looked to his wealth to do what only God can do. What would Jesus identify as God's chief competition for your total allegiance?

Wednesday, April 22

Read Matthew 13:44

Review **Everybody loses.** Winning anything significant involves choosing to lose something else. We lose sweets to gain health, we lose arguments to gain relationships, we lose money to gain time with our families. The question is are we deciding what to lose well? Sometimes what we chase as a "win" proves to be an unworthy pursuit.

Respond What that young man saw as a burden Jesus saw as a bargain. Satan's greatest aim is to keep you from seeing life following Jesus for the win that it really is. He wants you to focus on what you will lose and never consider what you will gain. What is that "one thing" costing you? Talk to a friend about it today.

Thursday, April 23

Read Philippians 3:7

Review **Good losers gain Jesus.** We tend to focus on what we will miss if we give Jesus a whole-hearted "yes;" perhaps we should focus on what we miss with a half-hearted "yes." Half-hearted decisions for Christ are really sad. Jesus wants to know if you will lose in order to gain him. And by the way, he made the same decision about us. In order for us to gain eternal life Jesus had to lose his. And in the garden he wrestled, he prayed, and he decided.

Respond Make a list of the ways Jesus' decision to lose his life was a gain for you. Give God praise for the impact that decision has made in your life.

Friday, April 24

Read Luke 9:24-25

Review **What will you choose to lose?** This was the "point of impact" in Jesus' message. Not everyone who meets Jesus leaves better; the impact causes some to leave sadder (like this young man in Luke 18). And that makes Jesus sad too.

Respond Maybe you need to work on your soul. As you reflect on the thoughts from each day's devotional, continue to identify and deal with your idol, that chain that is only allowing you to offer Jesus half of your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you let it go, and to open your eyes to what you have been missing in Jesus. Ask someone to hold you accountable as you "choose to lose."