

Crossroads *followHim* scripture for February 2017

This month we offer one difficult passage and one easier passage...none of Jesus' invitations are really easy but some are easier to apply to our lives than others.

In our first scripture passage we are challenged to really follow him. And in the second we are invited to consider how we help those in need...

Your *followHim* group is invited to consider one or the other this month, or maybe both...remember *followHim* is designed to be flexible, to serve the needs of the group. Adapt as needed as you consider what it means to follow Jesus.

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Session I

Mark 8: 34— “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

This is hard teaching from Jesus. When he says “deny themselves” what does he mean? Go without? And what about taking up the cross...is he calling us to abandon everything and just follow him and does the cross mean he wants us to suffer as he did? How can we do that?

Maybe Jesus isn't asking for such radical behavior just a change of mindset... maybe he is asking us to keep him and his teaching in the forefront no matter what we are doing, to see him as the most important consideration in our lives.

Session II

Matthew 25:35-36 “...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.”

This is a very important teaching from Jesus. Do we see him in the poor? Do we serve him when we give to those in need? How does this scripture make us feel? Who do you think Jesus means when he says the ‘least of these?’