

DYING *to* LIVE

WEEK 1
Losing Your Life

Message Notes
Danny Anderson

Our culture tells us that happiness is found in self gratification.

I said to myself, "Come on, let's try **pleasure**. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was **meaningless**. *Ecclesiastes 2:1*

I had everything a man could desire! *Ecclesiastes 2:8*

...but she who is self-indulgent is **dead** even while she lives. *1 Timothy 5:6*

A life of selfishness leads to misery.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a **rich** and **satisfying** life. *John 10:10*

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to **life**, and those who find it are few." *Matthew 7:13-14*

It's the path of the cross.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." *Luke 9:23*

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever **loses** their life for me will save it. *Luke 9:24*

True life comes by losing it.

What does this look like?

1. You surrender your life to God's will.

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for **themselves**. Instead, they will live for **Christ**, who died and was raised for them. *2 Corinthians 5:15*

But seek first the **kingdom of God** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*

"If the author of the universe created us to play a key role in his unfolding drama, but we have failed to find our place in the story, then of course we would feel **incomplete**." Richard Stearns

2. You invest in people.

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to **do good** to one another and to everyone. *1 Thessalonians 5:15*

I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. *2 Corinthians 12:15*

"Wherever he went, Jesus was always allowed to help Himself to his life."

Oswald Chambers

"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." Mother Teresa

Books referenced in today's message:

Unfinished, by Richard Stearns

Wrecked, by Jeff Goins

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Luke 1:1-25	MONDAY Luke 1:26-56	TUESDAY Luke 1:57-80
this week	march 13	march 14	march 15
WEDNESDAY Luke 2:1-35	THURSDAY Luke 2:36-52	FRIDAY Luke 3:1-22	SATURDAY Luke 3:23-38
march 16	march 17	march 18	march 19
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Luke 9:24			

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD - What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE - State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Discussion Questions

1. How do you actively seek happiness? What aspects of your quest for happiness would you categorize as self-indulgent?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Take a moment to describe in your own words what King Solomon is teaching us. What was King Solomon's conclusion? Based on your recent decisions, how are you still running this experiment for yourself? Why?

2. Read Luke 9:23-24. What did it mean for Jesus to "take up His cross?" If you committed to "take up your cross" tomorrow, what would change in your life regarding what you've identified as self-indulgent?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. Taking up your cross means you are willing to surrender your will for God's will. Describe your current level of surrender.

Not surrendered Somewhat surrendered Mostly surrendered Completely surrendered

Share and explain your self-assessment. What roadblocks, if any, need to be removed in order for you to become completely surrendered?



Small Group Questions Continued

3. When our will is surrendered to God, he very quickly points us to other people. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15, Matthew 22:37-39, and Philippians 2:3-4. In what areas of your life do you feel God encouraging you to step out of your comfort zone to invest in others? What do you think God wants to do in the lives of others through you?

Read 1 John 3:18. Love is doing what is best for others. Who needs to experience love through you this coming week?

4. Oswald Chambers said, "Wherever he (Paul) went, Jesus was always allowed to help Himself to his life." This coming week, we were challenged to allow God to "help himself" to our lives for a 24-hour period. Will you accept this challenge of living a life surrendered to God for the sake of others? Describe some of the practical steps you will take during that 24-hour period.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for:

