

Making Adjustments – Matthew 16:24-27

What happened to summer? The weather's still nice but summer is over!

With the changing of the seasons, comes changes in our lives!

For the Toot's,

- The season of having 2 elementary age kids has changed!
- The season of having extra hands to help with the baby has changed!
- The season of having time, just Kristin & me together, has changed!

Maybe you can relate...

- If you are a family with school-aged kids, did you have to make any adjustments this week?
- If you are a family with a baby/toddler at home, have you had to make any adjustments recently to your life?
- If you got married over the last year, have you had to make any adjustments to your everyday life?

No matter what stage of life you are in, no matter what season, life is filled with making adjustments to the changing of the seasons!

Whether you are getting married, having a baby, going back to school, starting a new job, retiring from a job, choosing to live in Ohio...
Change is coming, so be ready to make adjustments!

What will those adjustments look like? Changes in lifestyle, time, energy, relationships, money management, etc.

If making adjustments is required in these areas of life, isn't it true that adjustments are needed in the area of our faith journey as well?

Choosing to be a follower of Jesus will require adjusting how we live!

Choosing to follow God's Will, will require adjustments in our lives!

Choosing to become a member of a church will require adjustments...

Jesus said, ***"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*** – Matthew 16:24

Jesus is saying that to follow Him, 3 major adjustments are needed.

1) **You must deny yourself!** Discipleship is a call to self-denial!

Not a denial of our identity as a person, but a denial of the desires of our flesh - "It's not all about me anymore!"

Similar to choosing to have a baby, you are choosing to deny that your life is your own to live! Our lives become about living for another!

If your life looks exactly the same after having a child something is wrong! So too, is a life that doesn't change after becoming a Christian!

Making adjustments, away from self-serving to God-serving, is essential!

2) **You must take up your cross!** You must walk the path of sacrifice!
It's not just denying yourself, it's laying yourself down for another.

"The Son of Man did not come into this world to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – Matthew 20:28

For Jesus, that meant crucifixion! For us it means putting God's will above our own and choosing to live that out no matter the cost to us!

Cross-bearing is a lot like marriage! *"For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness & in health, to love & to cherish, as long as we both shall live! Before God & these witnesses I pledge myself to this covenant"*

Jesus, ***"For the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame..."*** Can we say, *"For the joy set before us, we lay down our lives!"*

3) **You must follow Jesus!** Jesus is not just sitting around waiting for the second coming – and neither should we!

To follow Jesus, is a call to obey all that He commanded of us in Scripture, and to follow the example He gave us with His earthly life!

To make this adjustment, is to do what all school-age kids do all the time – they learn what to do, and how to do it from their teacher!

None of us have a PhD in living out the Christian life, we continually need a teacher and a model to follow – Jesus provides us with both!

Making adjustments to align ourselves with God's Will takes effort/work! God will do His part, but are we willing to do ours? **Philippians 2:12-13**

"You can't stay where you are and go with God in obedience to His will!"

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