

The Crazy But Effective Way to Turn Your Life Around Now

The Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Self

Luke 9:18-27

In this text Jesus gives us the most powerful tool for real, personal transformation in my life. Our Declaration of Independence declares *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”* The Rights of all men are capitalized for they all come from God. Now there are many think they know *the route* to real Life, genuine Liberty, and inner Happiness, but as the Scripture says, *“There is a path before each person that seems right, but the end is death (Prov. 14:12).*

(Read the text). The only way my life will ever experience significant transformation is for me to move out of the Kingdom of self and into the Kingdom of God. Jesus said He came to give us life more abundantly, and Paul says, *“Jesus died that we should no longer live for ourselves, but that we should live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf” (II Corinthians 5:15).* Just two points from this text need emphasized.

I. **Jesus is the Person to whom I should be listening.**

“Who do people say that I am” (v. 19). Jesus never asks a question for personal information; He asks questions to bring us to self-revelation. We come to see Him as *“the Christ of God” (v. 20).* *“He is the Christ of God, the true Messiah, that was promised by God, prophesied of by all the prophets, from the beginning of the world, and expected by the people of God: a character that includes all his offices, of prophet, priest, and king, to which he is anointed by God; and that this Messiah was not a mere man, but a divine person, the Son of God; not by creation, as angels and men are, nor by adoption, as saints, but by nature, being his own Son, his proper Son, the only begotten of the Father, of the same nature, one with him, and equal to him.” (John Gill).*

II. **Jesus gives me some upside-down wisdom for how to really live.**

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” says the LORD (Isa. 55:8).

A. **To find real Life, I must die to myself.**

“If anyone wishes to follow Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily” (v. 23).

Sin (in the form of acrostic) is *“something I need.”* Truth be known, all I need is Christ. So, I must daily die to the Kingdom of self, and think in terms of the Kingdom of Christ. What does that mean? Well, in essence, a Kingdom is *“a King’s dominion.”* What does Jesus say? *“A new command I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you” (Jn. 13:34).*

B. **To find real Liberty, I must surrender to Christ.**

“Whoever loses his life for My sake, is the one who shall save it. For what does a person profit if he gains the whole world, but loses or forfeits himself” (vs. 24-25). Do you see this? You be Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, Harold Hamm – and be in bondage in this life.

C. **To find real Happiness, I must experience Christ’s Kingdom.**

“But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death Until they see the kingdom of God” (v. 27). This verse alone convinces me that the Christ’s Kingdom is now and in the future. *“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21).*

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33). Give your allegiance to God’s Kingdom and transfer out of living for yourself.

