

# The Difference is Dying

Week of November 27, 2016

## THE DIFFERENCE IS DYING



*These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.*

### Message Recap:

Read Matthew 16:21-27

We all have a picture in our minds of what it's like to be a "good" Christian, and we know that we should try to be like Jesus. The problem is, it's not that easy, and we have a hard time giving up ALL the things we're called to yield to Christ. But to be fully alive in Christ, we must die to ourselves and our worldly desires. To gain an eternal life, we need to give up a temporary world. Once we joyfully belong to God's eternal kingdom, then the finite things of this world will become less important to us. The thing is, we can't live on the fence. We must live in our world or in God's. And the only way to live in God's world is to completely yield our own.

### Pray

Lord, we know what we must do, but we all struggle greatly in doing it. We need your help to give us the strength to look deep inside ourselves and root out the things that are not of your kingdom. We know we're broken, but if we can completely yield our broken lives to you, you can resurrect us in a new light and send us out as mended people bringing light to the rest of our broken world. Thank you for sending your son, Jesus, so that we might have the perfect example of sacrifice and resurrection.

### Getting Started

- Talk about a time when you were stuck in the middle of two sides of a debate, argument, or fight and you didn't want to take a side. What did you end up doing?
- What are your biggest passions or desires (apart from Jesus)?

### Digging Deeper

1. If someone told you that you had to give up one of your passions/ desires, which one could you give up?
2. Would you be able to give up the OTHER ones? The ones that weren't your answer for the last question?
3. Do you think any of your passions or desires are interfering with your walk with Jesus? If so, which ones, and how?
4. What is something worldly that you're holding on to that you think is keeping you from realizing God's plan for your life?
5. What is a passion or desire you have that you could use to glorify Christ in a way you're not already doing?
6. What does it mean to give up your "world?" What do you think your life would look like in a year or two if you gave up your "world" and allowed Jesus to resurrect you in a new light? What does it mean to give up your "world?"
7. How can members of the group most help you with the things you're struggling with?

### Living Jesus

Jesus was the perfect example of what it meant to die to self and allow God's resurrection in our lives. There were many times where the disciples did not understand why he had to die, but Jesus knew that God had an eternal plan that was way bigger than anything the disciples could have imagined. It wasn't easy for him, but he kept his eyes on God and his plan. If we can have just a fraction of the faith that Jesus had, we can bring incredible healing into our world.