

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS!

# BIBLE STUDY

SERIES: "SHIFTING THE CULTURE"



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# Opening Scripture

Matthew 16:24-28



# Verse:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.



# Verse:25

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.



# Verse:26

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?



# Verse:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.



# Verse:28

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”



# Tonight's Topic:

## “Shifting from Membership to Discipleship”





# Two Types of Believers

1. Receivers
2. Distributors



# Receivers

The **Receiver** is a Christian who takes in God's blessings, grace, and Word but doesn't always release them to others.



# Characteristics

- ✓ Enjoys **hearing** the Word but rarely **shares** it.
- ✓ Focused on **what God can do for me**, not what God can do **through me**.
- ✓ Their faith is **consumptive**, not **contributive**.
- ✓ They attend church to **receive inspiration**, but not necessarily to **impact others**.



# Distributors

The **Distributor** is a Christian who not only receives from God, but also **releases** what they've received — sharing grace, truth, and love with others.





# Characteristics

- ✓ Lives as a **conduit**, not a **container**.
- ✓ Understands that **ministry is stewardship** — what God gives you is meant to flow *through* you, not *stay* with you.
- ✓ They disciple others, serve others, and invest in others.
- ✓ They don't just come to church to get something — they come to **give something**.



# Status Check:

## Are you a Member or a Disciple?





# Membership

Is organizational governed  
by structure, bylaws and  
attendance.



# Member

- Refers to being officially connected to a local church body.
- It's about having your name on the roll, participating in church programs, being identified as apart of the church programs, and being identified as part of the congregation.
- Focus: Connection



# Foundation

Is the base of something. The lowest load-bearing part of a building. Typically below the ground level.



# Disciple

- Refers to being a follower and learner of Jesus Christ, actively growing in faith and belief.
- It's about becoming- transforming through spiritual formation and service.
- Focus: Commitment to Christ



# Motivation

- Members join for belonging, benefits or identity.
- Disciples commit for transformation and mission.



# The Difference

- ✓ Membership increases the crowd, but discipleship increases capacity.
- ✓ Membership can be counted, but discipleship can be measured.



# We are Shifting From:

- ✓ Attendance to Assignment
- ✓ Comfort to Commitment
- ✓ Crowd to Calling



# The Genesis

Jesus shifted the culture by  
redefining terms and  
expectations.



# Redefining Terms & Expectations

He shifted the focus from earthly power and self-preservation to self-sacrifice and service. He taught that true life is found by giving it up for a higher purpose.



# Sacrifice

- ✓ Biblical sacrifice is the intentional offering of something valuable to God as an act of worship, obedience, and devotion.
- ✓ It represents the surrender of one's time, resources, desires, or life to honor God and express faith in His will.



Sacrifice

Old Testament

Vs.

New Testament



# Old Testament

## (Rituals)

- 1. Burnt Offerings** – Total Surrender (Leviticus 1)
- 2. Peace Offerings** – Fellowship and Gratitude (Leviticus 3)
- 3. Sin Offerings** – Repentance and Atonement (Leviticus 4)
- 4. Grain Offerings** – Dedication of Work and Provision (Leviticus 2)



# New Testament

## (Relationship)

1. **Living Sacrifice** – Daily Obedience and Service  
(Romans 12:1)
2. **Sacrifice of Praise** – Worship and Thanksgiving  
(Hebrews 13:15)
3. **Sacrifice of Giving** – Generosity and Stewardship  
(Philippians 4:18)
4. **Sacrifice of Service** – Loving Others in Humility  
(Hebrews 13:16)



# Biblical Sacrifice

- ✓ Putting God's will above your will.
- ✓ Giving your best, not your leftovers.
- ✓ Living in a posture of daily surrender.
- ✓ Biblical sacrifice is not about the size of what you give, but by the size of your obedience!



# “Shifting from Membership to Discipleship”

1. The Call
2. The Cost
3. The Crown



# 1. The Call

The biblical call is God's divine invitation for a person to enter into a relationship, purpose and service with Him.



# Verse:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow Me.**”





# The Call is:

1. Intentional
2. Personal
3. Purposeful



## 2. The Cost

True discipleship always costs something; **time, comfort, and sometimes reputation.**



# Verse:25

For whoever desires to save  
his life will lose it, but  
whoever loses his life for My  
sake will find it.



What's the Difference  
Between:

Price Vs. Cost



# Price

Is the amount you pay to  
acquire something



# Cost

The sacrifice, effort, or ongoing commitment required to keep or live with what you've gained.

(Ongoing)



# 3. The Crown

Divine acknowledgment of  
earthly faithfulness.



# Verse:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.



# Verse:28

Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”



# The Crown Symbolizes

- Victory (Completed Competition)
- Honor (Royal Recognition)
- Authority (Divine Approval)



# Closing Thought:

Who or what is  
preventing you from  
becoming a disciple?