

NORTHWAYS SMALL GROUPS

Sermon Series: UNSELF: A Season of Surrender

Sermon Title: The Soul and Surrender

Sermon Text: Luke 9:18-25

Small Group Reminders: Northway is observing Lent together. Be sure to download the Lent Guide Booklet from NWC.FYI

This Weeks Fast Recommendation: Social Media and Excessive Internet Usage (In light of current events, you may choose an alternative.)

Be sure to review other events @ NWC.FYI - Especially the BBQ Bash, and The Acres of Hope Fun Run

Pre-Discussion Questions:

When you met last week, you should have shared with your group at least one action step you would take. **How did you do?**

Icebreaker Questions:

- Were you a fan of Everybody Loves Raymond? Why do you think it was such a popular show? Does anything about his family remind you of your own?

Read this week's **Sermon in a Sentence:** *What Jesus said is true: gaining the outside world doesn't help you if your inside world collapses.*

Discussion Questions:

1. **REVIEW:** If needed, briefly run through the summary of Sunday's message. (See other side.)
 1. What did God teach you through the message this weekend? Any personal insights coming out of Sunday's message?
2. **DISCUSS**
 1. Jesus asked his disciples what other people were saying about Him. In general, what do other people say about Jesus in our own time? What impact do his followers have on forming those "outside" opinions?
 2. Spend some time sharing who Jesus is to you, personally. You'll likely have many names or titles or character traits, but be sure to address the idea of his leadership in your life. Is he truly your Master and are you his apprentice?
 3. What are the differences between a casual follower and a true disciple of Jesus?
 4. Discuss what it means to "deny yourself and take up your cross." Read Luke 9:23 in the NLT, ERV, and The Passion Translations. (Use an app.)
 5. Rodney said, *"The most important thing about you is not what you achieve; it is the person that you become."* Discuss the ways we can be obsessed with self (the outside world) yet neglect the soul. (It might also be helpful to review Rodney's description of how the soul integrates the other parts of our lives. Also Dallas Willard's quote about becoming a disciple. See other side.)
3. **PRACTICE:**
 - Spend a few moments to reflect on the different aspects of the integrated soul. (See the chart) Name an area (or more) where you're struggling. (Relationships, feelings of anger or bitterness, a negative thought life, unhealthy cravings, etc)
 - Now apply the concept of giving up your own way. Would your situation improve by simply "unselfing?"
 - Finally, as His apprentice, what does Jesus have to say about it? What would be his way of dealing with it?

Application/Reflection

- Write down the sermon in a sentence.
- Write down and share with the group at least one action step you'll take this week.
- Write down one person's name from your group (Make sure each person has at least one person, not in the same household), and one thing you could pray for and be intentional throughout the week to pray for them.

UNSELF: The Soul and Surrender

A disciple of Christ is a person who is willing to give up their preconceived ideas of what life is all about, to abandon their previous way of living, immersing themselves into the way, the truth, and the life of the Master, in order to be like Christ.

Luke 9:23 NIV

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

The three things to do if you want to be Jesus’ disciple:

1. Give up having to have your own way (Deny yourself)
2. Put to death your old life everyday if necessary (Take up your cross daily)
3. Surrender to and immerse yourself in the Jesus Way (Follow me)

Luke 9:24 MSG

Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.

Luke 9:25 NIV

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self (soul)?

The Greek word for *soul*, sometimes translated *life* or *self*, is *psuche*, from which it’s easy to see where our word *psyche* came from.

Genesis 2:7 KJV

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.**

You are not just a self; you are a soul. You’re a soul made *by* God, made *for* God, and made *to need* God, which means you were not made to be self-sufficient.

Your **soul** is what integrates your **will** (your intentions) your **mind** (your thoughts and feelings, your values and conscience), and your **body** (your desires or cravings, body language, and actions) and even your **relationships** into a single life. **Your soul is what integrates it all.** A soul is healthy—well-ordered—when there is harmony between these entities and God’s intent for all creation in our relationships. When you are connected with God and other people in life, you have a healthy soul.

Matthew 5:8 MSG

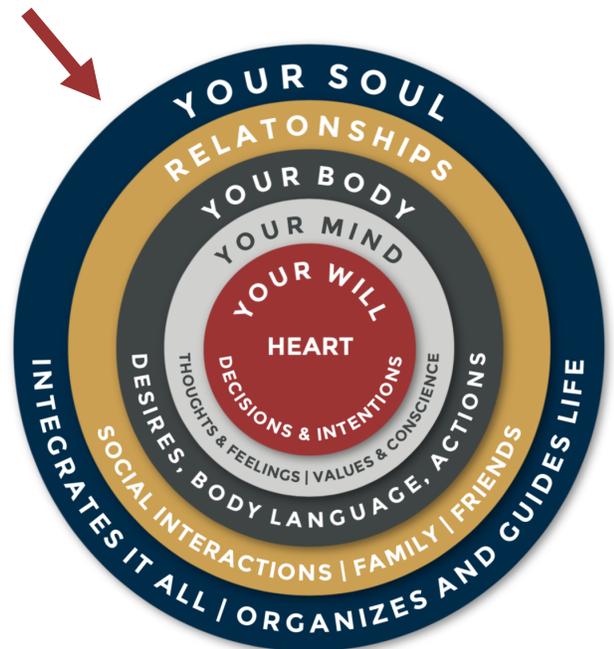
“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

The self and the soul are not the same thing. “Self is a stand-alone, do-it-yourself unit, while the soul reminds us we were not made for ourselves.”

To “lose my soul” means I no longer have a healthy interior life that organizes and guides my life. I am a car without a steering wheel. No matter how fast you go, you’re just a crash waiting to happen.

Jesus is talking about a diagnosis, not a destination. The salvation of your soul is not just about where you go when you die. The word *salvation* means healing or deliverance at the deepest level of who we are in the care of God through the presence of Jesus.

“...becoming a disciple is a matter of giving up your life as you have understood it to that point...And without that ‘giving up,’ you cannot be his disciple, because you will still think you are in charge and just in need of a little help from Jesus for your project of a successful life. But our idea of a ‘successful life’ is precisely our problem.” Dallas Willard



“The most important thing about you is not what you achieve; it is the person that you become.”