

神的道是顛倒的道理

「得著生命的，將要失喪生命；為我失喪生命的，將要得著生命。」(太 10:39)

四福音書都重覆耶穌這重要的教導。主期望我們了解這重要性：「如果有人愛自己的生命會失去生命，若他在今世恨自己的生命，就得永生。若跟從我，就當捨棄自己…若不捨棄所有，就不能做我的門徒。」

耶穌是賜我們豐盛的生命的主，同是這位耶穌，他警戒我們不要太執著所有的。為了更貼近跟隨祂，我們要放下，不是直接去擁有生命，而是超越這些，遠瞻一點這位生命賜予者。

在你生命中在那一方面是阻礙你與神的關係？「失喪生命」為要「在基督裡得著生命」對你是什麼意思？若我們要認真經歷耶穌所講的真理，這類問題就是我們需要問的。

主邀請我們在這方面反省我們的生命。讓我們體會這似非而是的真理中的奧妙，以致他引導我們進到更偉大的真相。

在屬靈方面：要進步，我們要安靜…
要成長，我們要變小…
要累積，我們要放棄…
要有完全的自由，我們要完全的順服神的旨意…
要得著生命就要不斷的放棄它。

歡迎你進到天國，她不是你所想像的樣子。

反省問題：

1. 思想一下文中所提的：「在你生命中在哪一方面是阻礙你與神的關係？」我們有沒有過度地把「得著生命」佔據了？
2. 當我們在信靠耶穌到願意捨棄自己生命的程度時會遇到什麼挑戰？
3. 在面對主耶穌所要求的顛倒的形式，我們可有什麼選擇？有什麼是常見的經歷？

禱告：告訴耶穌你內心一些恐懼，以致你要維持一個既焦慮又要緊握著的生命。求主給你信心去信靠祂，去發掘和經驗「在祂裡面失去生命」的意思。
(可在小組中彼此代求)

3. "The Upside-Down Ways of God"

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Each of the gospels repeat this important teaching that Jesus gave. In a variety of ways the Lord is trying to make us understand something crucial . . . "The one who loves their life will lose it, while the one who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. . . . If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself. . . . Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

The same Jesus who came to give us a more abundant life cautions us about holding on too tightly to the one we have. Rather than love our lives directly, we are to let go and look beyond them, in order to follow more closely the Giver of life.

In what ways might your relationship to life be obstructing your relationship to God? What would it mean for you to "lose your life" in order to find it in Christ? These are the questions that need to be asked if we're going to experience the truth of one of Jesus' more difficult sayings.

The Lord invites us to examine our lives in light of this teaching and to explore for ourselves the paradoxical wisdom by which He leads us to greater Truth.

To advance spiritually we must be still . . . to grow we must become small. . . to accumulate we must let go . . . to have perfect freedom we must perfectly submit our wills to God . . . to gain life we must learn how to continually lose it.

Welcome to the kingdom of God. It's not what you'd expect.

Questions:

- Consider the question raised in the meditation: "In what ways might our relationship to life be obstructing our relationship to God?" How are we overly pre-occupied with "finding our life?"
- What challenges do we face in trusting Jesus enough to let go of our lives?
- What alternatives do we come up with to the upside-down ways that Jesus prescribes? What are some of the outcomes we usually experience in following our own instincts?

Prayer: Talk to Jesus (and to one another if that seems appropriate) about some of the fears we have that cause us to maintain an anxious grip on life. Ask Jesus (or others to pray for you) for faith to trust Him enough to explore the concept of "losing your life in Him" for yourself.