

Luke 9: Taking the Steam Out of Self-Esteem

Luke 9:23-26; We saw last time that Jesus was God's Christ first before He was ever ours. We have no say or input into the salvation God offers us through Jesus.

- ✓ God 100% restricts any human input into what pleases Him: Moses was told to make the tabernacle exactly as it had been shown to him: **Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30**; and anytime they built an altar out of stone: **Exodus 20:25**.
 - ✓ This paints such a dark picture of those who feel free like Cain to construct their own religious system and offer to God whatever they please.
 - ✓ God wants nothing that we can come up with.
 - ✓ Jesus continues to lower our esteem by what He tells His disciples next; **Luke 9:23-26**.
 - ✓ **To follow Jesus is not a means of self-fulfillment but of self-denial.**
 - ✓ What Jesus is saying fundamentally opposite of what many preachers are preaching today.
 - ✓ Understand, He is God's Christ first, **we have no say in our salvation**; we bring nothing to the table for our discipleship.
 - ✓ "Do you want to follow Me and live the life I have for you? Die to yourself, deny yourself: your dreams, goals, ambitions, whatever your plans may be, throw it all away, then you can be My disciple."
 - ✓ Following Jesus is the only means to fulfillment, the only means to find yourself and your purpose.
 - ✓ Following Jesus will never be found in seeking what's best for yourself, never be found in seeking your purpose.
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1. We face tremendous spiritual dilemma in our world today,

- ✓ **2nd Timothy 3:1-2**; Notice this is a religious barrier.
 - ✓ The first one is the "why?" for the rest of them: why do we love money? Because we love ourselves so much, why are we boastful, proud, abusive, etc.
 - ✓ Self-love is the modifier of all the other disastrous attributes.
 - ✓ This is very bad news since the goal of our society is raise up self-lovers, with fulfilling self as the highest aspiration.
 - ✓ While what we are doing is destroying our world, we've never thought more highly of ourselves and our performance.
 - ✓ The basis of the Greek for "terrible" means to be lowered into a dark chasm. Perilous, treacherous, can't see the bottom.
 - ✓ Our world's mantra of Esteeming self is lowering our society into a dark chasm of godless behavior.
 - ✓ Self-esteem is unbiblical, unchristian, anti-discipleship, satanic, terrible perilous, horrible.
 - ✓ Never does the Bible promote self-esteem instead it speaks regularly to the importance of a healthy self-image.
 - ✓ **It is impossible to have high self-esteem and have a healthy self-image.**
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2. Jesus had no Self-Esteem.

- ✓ **Philippians 2:6-8**; He had a proper self-image – He was God! But He had no self-esteem, self-fulfillment, self-determination.
- ✓ In case you still beg to differ, consider: **John 5:19; 8:28, 12:29; 5:30.**
- ✓ No works of His own, no words of His own, no judgements of His own? He hadn't been through American elementary school they could have fixed that for Him!
- ✓ Jesus had no self-esteem, but He had a pinpoint accurate self-image.
- ✓ Today, we are the opposite: high self-esteem, super high, and a completely inaccurate self-image of ourselves.
- ✓ No one had a higher self-esteem than the Jews of the first century.
- ✓ Jesus had no self-esteem, but the Jews had all kinds of esteem for Him: **Isaiah 53:4**, why? Because they esteemed themselves!
- ✓ They wanted a Messiah but one of their own design who defeats all their enemies and gives them free food and health care.
- ✓ That's what happens – when we esteem ourselves we have no room or purpose for a savior, **no** place for true discipleship because why would I deny myself when I think I'm so awesome!
- ✓ **Revelation 3:17**; Notice the picture of the end times church, High self-esteem but a horribly inaccurate self-image.

3. We can't begin to even talk about discipleship until we have had an execution of self.

- ✓ Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20-21; Romans 14:8.
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