

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 9:18-27

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

¹⁹ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

²⁰ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

²³ Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. **Read Luke 9:18-27** (*printed above*). What strikes you in this passage? What questions arise as you read it? Feel free to wrestle with those questions out loud together.
2. How does the first century relationship between rabbis and disciples shape the way you think about Jesus’ invitation to follow Him?
3. Is it possible to apprentice oneself to Jesus now that He’s no longer physically living among us? What might this look like today?
4. What does it look like to die to yourself daily? Are you doing this? In what ways are you still clinging to your autonomy?
5. What would motivate a person, like Simon or Levi (Luke 5) to leave everything and follow Jesus? If following Jesus costs you everything...why is it worth it?