

# not a fan.

**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**not a fan.**  
**Part 2: The Payoff**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

***There are significant moments of invitation that change life as we know it. They require immediate response and some foundational changes. Yet, the promised abundant life awaits us on the other side of full commitment!***

**[John 6.68-69]**

*Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, **to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life. We have **come to believe and to know** that you are the Holy One of God."*

***The life that is really lived is the one that was laid down.***

## [Matthew 16.21-26]

*From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; **you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.**" Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.**"*

***Jesus wasn't concerned about drawing, or keeping, a crowd. Jesus is more concerned with your commitment than your comfort.***

### **Entry-Level Discipleship (Follower-ship):**

**1. Deny themselves** = disregard, lose sight of, and forget themselves and their own interests

**THE FOLLOWERS SELF-DENIAL = to consistently choose Jesus' version of my life over my own plans for my future**

**2. "Take up their cross"** = disregard, lose sight of, and die to a life of self-interests

***The cross was not an emblem of holiness until Christ died on one. The crucified life looks like a daily act of certain death.***

**3. "Follow me"** = stay in step with the Spirit and continue to go the way that Jesus is leading

***The primary promise Jesus made to followers was a fearless life.***

**[Matthew 10.1]**

*Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.*

**[Matthew 10.16-18]**

*"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and **will be flogged with whips in the synagogues**. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. **When you are arrested**, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time."*

**[Matthew 10.22]**

*"And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved."*

**[Matthew 10.26]**

*"**But don't be afraid** of those who threaten you."*

**[Matthew 10.28]**

*"**Don't be afraid** of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell."*

***Fear focuses on the problem, instead of the Savior.***

**[Matthew 10.30]**

*"The very hairs on your head are numbered. **So don't be afraid;** you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."*

**[1 John 4.18]**

*There is no fear in love. **But perfect (mature) love drives out fear,** because fear has to do with punishment (torment). The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

**[Acts 20.23-24]**

*I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. **But none of these things move me;** nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus.*

**[Romans 8.28, 31, 35-39]**

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them...What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?..Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all*

*creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What if you had everything you ever wanted, what would life look like for you?**
- 2. When have you experienced a significant moment of invitation (in the natural or the spiritual)? What resulted from that?**
- 3. What does it require to be a completely committed follower of Christ? What kind of faith moves people?**
- 4. What is the payoff for being completely committed to following Jesus? (Is it heaven? Miracles and the supernatural activity in your life? Tangible blessing? Pain-free and problem-free life? Or is it a fearless life?) How does this increase our faith? (*Fear not!*)**