

L I F E P R E S E R V A T I O N

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read Luke 17:26-33, and search for each situation in which people who sought to save their lives – lost their lives instead.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

For each of the situations you identified in your search of the text, discuss:

- [1] Why did they lose their lives?
- [2] Was the loss avoidable?
- [3] How was it that their attempt to save their lives influenced their fate?
- [4] Exactly what was it that these people were trying to preserve?

Jesus gave these stories in an attempt to make a point that attempting to save one's life can cause a man to lose it.

- [1] How were these stories applicable to the Jews of Jesus' time?
- [2] Why is it so important to "Remember Lot's Wife"?
- [3] Is this message only applicable to the Christians of the first century?

Make a list of ways in which Christians today can attempt to save their "lives" in such a way as to lose their lives.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to give us the wisdom to love Him and His ways with all of our minds – placing value in His ways, and perceiving that His ways bring life.

DAY TWO

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read Matthew 16:21-28, and search for 3 similar statements in vs. 23-25, and try to relate these to seeking to save one's life.

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

Discuss the text, and answer:

- [1] Why was Peter's statement offensive to Jesus?
- [2] Why did Jesus call Peter "Satan" (adversary)?
- [3] Is being "mindful of the things of men" the same as seeking to save one's life?
- [4] Is denying one's self the same as not seeking to save one's life?
- [5] If we deny ourselves – what do we stand to lose?

Read together Titus 2:11-15.

- [1] What are we urged to deny?
- [2] Are these things such as will bring destruction on a man – if he seeks to preserve these?

Read Mark 7:6-13, and discuss

- [1] What were these Pharisees "holding" onto?
- [2] In what way would their actions to "preserve" their lives cause them to lose their lives?

Make a list from these three examples of how we can be in danger of trying to hold onto (or preserve) things which can cause us to lose our lives.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us always to desire His ways, denying ourselves and seeking to serve Him.

DAY THREE

STEP #1: THE SEARCH

Read Luke 9:62 and consider the meaning of this in light of the plea of Luke 17:32 to "remember Lot's wife". Read Genesis 19:15-26 to "remember Lot's wife"

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

After reading these verses together, discuss:

- [1] What is the portrayed attitude of one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back?
- [2] Why did Lot's wife look back?
- [3] What attitudes do these two cases have in common?

Make a list of things which can cause a Christian to "look back".

- [1] What attitudes must be in the heart to cause one to "look back"?
- [2] Can these attitudes cause us to lose our lives, while trying to preserve them?
- [3] Discuss the difference in the meaning of the "life" one can try to preserve, that causes him to lose his "life"
- [4] Is it wrong to try to preserve one's physical life?
- [5] How is the preservation of physical life different from the preservation of "life" that causes the loss of "life"
- [6] What "life" should we pursue?

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us to serve Him with all our souls, submitting to His direction in our lives – to love the things that He loves, and to value the things that He values, being mindful of the things of God.

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