

21st June Fellowship Group Notes:

From Grief to Joy

We bring our series on the “cost of following Jesus” to its conclusion. We focus on the third man in the story, the imagery of “ploughing”, to learn how serving in the Kingdom of God requires dedication and commitment, not longingly “looking back” at a previous life. While this may be difficult and at times cause some grief, Jesus promises that ultimately, as we follow him, we will receive joy.

1. What was something in your life that required your intense and dedicated focus yet, although it was tough, brought joy too?
2. Read Luke 9:61-62 and 1 Kings 19:19-21. How do these stories overlap?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” Luke 9:62.
4. We can maybe see why Jesus said this when reflecting on how the Israelites “looked back” to Egypt while God was trying to lead them forward to the promised in numbers 11:4-6 & 14:2. What do these narratives teach us?
5. What is it that a Christian is “looking back” to? Let’s remind ourselves, by reading Romans 6:19-20;22 & 2 Corinthians 5:17, of what our previous lives were like before coming to know God and be known by God. What stands out to you?
6. The cost of following Jesus may be painful at times as we prioritize him over and above certain things in this earthly existence (relationships, jobs, certain desires, etc.) but ultimately it will lead to joy. Reflect on the last Scripture and what it means to you: John 16:20-22.

7. As we draw the series to a close, it might be appropriate and helpful to share some testimonies from people in the group who have experienced the cost of following Jesus, but found it to be worth it.