



A King's Ransom

(Luke 9:18-27)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.
2. Background
 - a. Tens of thousands want to see Jesus, the man who preaches powerfully & heals miraculously.
 - b. For 2 years, Jesus has done all the preaching & healing; He now trains others to follow in His footsteps.
 - c. [9:7-9] The son of Herod who killed John the Baptizer asks the right question about Jesus: "Who is this?"

Do you pursue comfort now or Jesus? [Luke 9:18-22]

1. [9:18-20] Who is Jesus?
 - a. [9:18] Jesus asks: Who do the crowds say I am?
 - i. [9:19] Crowd's theory: John the Baptizer, Elijah, or another prophet of old returned from the dead.
 - ii. Prophet: One who speaks for God.
 - iii. None have been heard from in over 600 years; God has been silent.
 - b. [9:20] Jesus asks: Who do you say I am?
 - i. Peter's answer: The Christ of God
 - ii. Christ: The messianic King who rules for God to bring rescue & hope.
2. [9:21] Jesus' command: Don't tell anyone who I am yet.
 - a. The people would force Jesus to be a revolutionary political King on their terms (cf. John 6:15).
 - b. Jesus doesn't want Peter & the disciples to get caught up with the crowd's mentality.
 - c. Tendency: To seek the blessing, not the Blessor; to use Him to get the comforts that the King has to offer.
3. [9:22] They need to understand Jesus' purpose as Messiah King.
 - a. He didn't come to rule & reign in comfort, and bring the comforts of life for His followers now.
 - b. He came to experience great discomfort, even death, for our sake ("the Suffering Servant"; cf. Isa 52-56).
 - c. He will die for our sin & be raised to give us new life.
4. Application: Do you pursue comfort now or Jesus? The Blessor or the blessing?

Do you avoid discomfort now or follow Jesus? [Luke 9:23]

1. If the King's path is to be rejected, suffer & die, then His followers must be committed to the same road.
 - a. [9:23a] Deny yourself: Give up your right to self-interest & comfort
 - b. [9:23b] Take up your cross daily: Identify with Jesus by following Him, even if there is sacrifice & suffering.
 - i. Jesus models submission to a cross for God's future joy & glory (cf. Heb 12:2).
 - ii. Take up: Intentionally (not passively).
 - iii. Daily: On a regular basis.
 - c. [9:23c] Follow Me: Reject pursuits/comforts of this world; pursue sacrifice/discomfort for My sake.
2. Our problem: We fear pain/discomfort; we want an easy life, easy commitment to Jesus.
 - a. You can't avoid discomfort if you want to follow Jesus.
 - b. Issue: Surrender (of our interests, rights, comforts).
3. Application: Do you avoid discomfort for Jesus, or follow Him?
 - a. What do you need to surrender?

- b. Intentionally, regularly go to Jesus and allow Him to be Lord over your life, relationships, future, resources.

Following Jesus leads to real life [Luke 9:24-27]

1. [9:24] What do you really gain?
 - a. From self-interest & comforts in life: Living for self leads to temporary happiness, but ends up with nothing.
 - b. From Jesus: Not safety, security or comfort now, but eternal life, real life.
2. [9:25] What's considered profitable in life?
 - a. You can win everything the world has to offer, and you will still lose, everything.
 - b. Following Jesus is a long-term view/investment.
3. [9:26-27] The Kingdom is here & not-yet
 - a. Someday Jesus will return in all His glory to usher in all the blessings & comforts of the Kingdom.
 - b. Until that day, don't hide His name; proclaim the King & Kingdom.
 - c. Eternal life is not just quantity, but quality of life that comes only through Jesus (cf. Luke 18:29-30).
 - d. It comes from knowing, being with, and serving Jesus.
 - e. Application: Your purpose here isn't to pursue comfort, but to proclaim the King & Kingdom.

Conclusion: A King's ransom

1. Jesus draws a dividing line in the sand:
 - a. Those who commit to Him now regardless of the cost, trusting His coming blessings of the Kingdom.
 - b. Those who use Jesus to provide comforts now with as little commitment & discomfort as possible.
2. King's Ransom: An extremely large quantity of money; a hefty price paid to release a captured King from captivity.
 - a. The ransom is paid in reverse: King Jesus sacrificed everything to set you free.
 - b. What's the King's ransom worth to you? Is it worth surrendering your rights, security, comfort now for something better to come?
3. Prayer of surrender.