

RED LETTER graphic w/email

SHARE YOUR STORY from RED LETTER ... {web site image-??}

{question come up first then 2 bullet points}

How do we determine if something is a “good deal”?

- Cost → \$\$, convenience, commitment
- Value → personal, social, cultural worth

{Come up one at a time; can be on separate slides with “Invitations from Jesus” at top of each slide}

Invitations from Jesus:

- **Come to Me: learn, be yoked ... gentle & humble in heart**
- **Come to Me: drink ... → refreshed by being with Jesus**
- **Forgive ... as God has forgiven ... → unyoked from unforgiveness**
- **Believe ... do greater works ... → Serve**
- **Heart follows treasure ... Kingdom investor → Give \$\$**
- **Witness ... → Go share and show the King & His Kingdom**

{# come up one at a time}

Luke 9 Invitation → Clarity about the “deal” Jesus is offering ...

- 1) Promote deep **consideration** (vs. superficial acceptance or rejection)
- 2) Prompt either **enduring commitment** OR **clear rejection**

Luke 9:18-20a

While He was praying in private and His **disciples** were with Him, He asked them, “Who do **the crowds** say that I am?”¹⁹ They answered, “John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, that one of the ancient prophets has come back.”²⁰ “But you,” He asked them, “who do you say that I am?”

Luke 9:20b-22

... Peter answered, “**God’s Messiah.**”²¹ But He strictly warned and instructed them to tell this to no one,²² saying, “It is necessary that the Son of Man suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, **be killed**, and **be raised** the third day.”

Living the Red Letter Life = Life with God as part of His Kingdom

- **Invitation** to build my life on Jesus and His Words
 - Available to all through trust & reliance → joyful obedience
 - Abundance: *rest for your souls, rivers of living water vs. ill-fitting yokes*
- **Confidence** in the identity of Jesus → *God’s Messiah*
- **Luke 9:23**

Accurate and confident understanding of Jesus is essential ... but NOT all that is needed to live the “Red Letter” life ...

Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, “If **anyone** wants to follow after Me, let him **deny himself**, **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me**.

{come up one at a time}

Cross-Bearing:

- **Way of life** → Jesus is not a hobby or side-interest
- **Complete submission; captivated by life with Jesus**

{come up one at a time}

Self-Denying:

- **Self that acts in apparent self-interest**
- **Self that trusts its ability, its wisdom and its desires**
- **Self as the ultimate frame of reference**

The “self” that Jesus invites us to deny:

- **Yokes itself to the wrong things**
- **Causes problems**
- **Grows weary & thirsty**

Psalm 145:1-3

I exalt you, my God the King, and bless your name forever and ever.

² I will bless you every day; I will praise your name forever and ever.

³ The Lord is great and is highly praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

{all one slide}

Cross-Bearing + Self-Denying

= the full and yet daily surrender of a lesser, dying, problem-causing self for a greater, eternal one →

the person God envisioned in creation, died for in redemption, and purposed for in His Kingdom

Colossians 3:10 (J.B. Philipps)

... you have finished with the **old man** and all he did and have begun life as the **new man**, who is out to **learn what he ought to be**, according to the **plan of God**.

{come up one at a time}

2 Primary Obstacles:

- Vision (& information) without **intention** → *take up Cross daily*
- Sensitivity to **self** (aka the old self) → *deny self*

Luke 9:24-26

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **because of Me** will save it. ²⁵ For what does it benefit someone if he **gains** the whole world, and yet **loses or forfeits** himself? For whoever is **ashamed of Me and My words**, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes ...

The soul is an **investor** and a **profit-seeker**.

True rest, joy, satisfaction and life cannot be found without **discipleship to Jesus**.

The only real “deal” in life is to **surrender** ourselves to Jesus and His will as revealed through **His Words**.

- 1) Decisively decide to become a **devoted disciple** of Jesus.
→ **Biblical Baptism-?**

Romans 6:3-5 (MSG)

... what happened in **baptism**. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

That’s what **baptism into the life of Jesus** means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father ...

{put the card image and Point #2 on the same slide if possible – 2 halves}

- 2) Make an **enduring commitment** to live the specific words of Jesus.

RED LETTER COMMITMENT CARD