



Getting Back In The Routine

Aww...Fall. Kids may get depressed but we adults look forward to the start of school. Why? It is because as the kids are going back to school, we start moving into our routine. Our familiar routine. We're relieved to be back in such a comfortable place. After all it is OUR routine. But should it be?

The biggest joy and blessing the average Christian will miss is the invitation to live in God's routine through Jesus. I know that in saying this it sounds like I'll be giving you "spiritual homework" but bear with me. I'm not trying to give you a list of things you must do as much as I am giving you an opportunity to just plug in to it. To realize it is a life not a religion of lists.

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." (Luke 9:23-24) Maybe that is an invitation into God's routine. He knows us and life better, right? Maybe our routines are obstacles to experiencing life "to the full". In the south they have a saying, "Get yer big ol' head outta the way." Perhaps that is the problem. I'm in the way.

To experience this life I must deny my routine first. That may not be easy. I've got to where it fits me well. I'm comfortable. But do I want to experience... more? Would I like to find this life as more of an adventure than a cruise control? The only way is to get into God's routine. But he won't tag team lead with you. First step, deny yourself and YOUR routine.

The second thing is to pick up our cross. The hardest yet most important thing Jesus did was go to the cross. His cross that God gave Him to bear. He was tempted to put it down but followed God even through the hard stuff. We must do the same. We want God's routine when it's easy, but must remain faithful when it grows hard. God called all of us to His story. We all have a part that we must see through to the end. To remain in this routine, we must be completely faithful in our part; our cross.

Third is to follow. That makes sense. How can we be in God's routine without following Him? The Greek term here is to follow footstep for footstep after God. There is also warmth to this step. God will never send us where He is not with us. When we follow "footstep for footstep", we find the life that we would otherwise miss. And where He is taking us brings joy on the journey and reward at the destination.

Becoming God's disciple is much more an invitation than an expectation. You don't have to follow. You can keep your routine. But it will take you... where? I'm with God. He told me where His journey goes and His routine makes the trip so much more incredible.

From My Heart,

Billy

