

Good morning, beloved! This week we are reminded of perhaps the most difficult part of responding to our Lord's call on our lives: dying to self.

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’”

Mark 8:34 (ESV)

This astonishing statement would –and still does- cause many a man and woman to turn their backs on Jesus to go their own way. It's just simply too counter-intuitive. Self-preservation is what we are made of, at any cost! But, in Christ things are different. If one has truly had an encounter with Jesus, his heart and mind transformed by the Gospel, his death to self becomes true life. Quoting the great German theologian/philosopher, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “When Jesus calls a person to follow Him, He calls that person to come and die.” Bonhoeffer was a man who literally gave his life for the cause of Christ.

We die to self. Why? Because, as we read Jesus' words in Mark 8:35, “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.” This is the great paradox of this Christian life!

Die well, my friends. And live for Him. Amen.

Mike Luna



Blessings
from the
WORD