IMPACTERS COMMUNITIES

A Work of The Catholic Guy Ministry

JESUS IS MY LORD AND SAVIOR STILL

SUMMARY

Bruce Downes reflects on decades of Christian faith, beginning with a personal conversion moment sparked by a Catholic priest's challenge that God has no grandchildren only sons and daughters. The Message centers on the truth that giving your life to Jesus Christ is not a single moment of decision but a lifelong process of daily surrender. Drawing from Luke 9:23 and the post-resurrection encounter between Jesus and Peter in John 21, Bruce argues that following Christ is not about religious enthusiasm or spiritual accomplishment, but about an ongoing, deepening relationship with God. The Message challenges believers to examine which areas of their lives remain outside of Christ's lordship, and calls them toward a spirituality rooted in communion with God's presence rather than worldly measures of success.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Giving your life to Jesus Christ is not simply a decision you make on a certain day. It is a decision you spend the rest of your life learning to make.**
- Following Christ is not one great yes, but thousands of smaller yeses every single day.
- The greatest thing God wants is not what we accomplish for him, but who we become in him.
- Christ Jesus has already claimed you. The Christian life is not about earning relationship with him. It is about responding to the love and grace he has already given.
- The invitation of Jesus has always remained, and always will remain, the same: Follow me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- Luke 9:23 — Jesus calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow him, describing discipleship as an ongoing way of life rather than a single act
- John 21:15-22 — Jesus restores Peter after his denial, repeatedly asking whether Peter loves him and commissioning him to feed his sheep, closing with the words "Follow me" even as Peter is distracted by the calling of another disciple
- Philippians 3:12 — Paul acknowledges he has not yet reached the goal but presses on, grounding his pursuit in the reality that Christ Jesus has already made him his own

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the **IMPACTERS** Community Prayer .

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: The Daily Decision

In Luke 9:23, Jesus calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow him. The word "daily" is at the heart of this passage. Jesus is describing a way of life, not a single moment of commitment.

1. What does the word "daily" mean to you in practical terms? What does it actually look like to take up your cross on an ordinary Tuesday?
2. Bruce Downes said he sometimes feels the pull to put his fingers in his ears and block out what God is asking of him. Have you ever felt that way? What was God asking of you at that time, and how did you respond?
3. How do you personally experience the tension between wanting to follow God wholeheartedly and wanting to hold certain areas of your life back from him?

Section 2: Full Surrender vs. Partial Control

Bruce made an important distinction: saying "Jesus is Lord of my life" is not automatically the same as giving him genuine control over every part of your life.

4. Bruce Downes mentioned people who are deeply committed in their faith and prayer life, yet carry unforgiveness or withhold generosity in specific areas. Without naming others, can you recognize any area in your own life where you have drawn a line and said, in effect, "this part is mine"?
5. He described a season where he was allowing other people's opinions to hold him back from what God was calling him to do. Have you ever experienced something similar where the voices around you shaped the limits of your commitment more than God's voice did? How did you navigate that?
6. In John 21, when Peter becomes distracted by what God might be asking of John, Jesus simply says, "What is that to you? Follow me." How do you react when you see God calling someone else to a different level or kind of commitment than your own? Is comparison ever a barrier for you?

. Section 3: Who We Become, Not What We Accomplish

7. Bruce Downes drew a sharp contrast between the world's measure of success and the kingdom's measure of growt

8. Bruce said: "The greatest thing God wants is not what we accomplish for him, but who we become in him." How does that challenge or reframe the way you currently think about your faith life and your service to God?
9. He described how his quietest moments — holidays, rest, stillness — often became the times he heard God most clearly and felt called to deeper surrender. What does that suggest about the role of silence and space in the Christian life? How much room do you currently make for that kind of encounter?
10. Paul writes in Philippians 3:12 that he has not yet reached the goal, but presses on because Christ has already made him his own. What is the difference between striving to earn God's approval and pressing forward in response to grace already given? How do you know which one is driving you?

Section 4: The Invitation That Remains

Bruce Downes reflected that after all his years of following God, he still senses God calling him to deeper surrender and that in many ways he feels he is only at the beginning. Does that encourage you or unsettle you? Why?

10. He described the charism of Impactors as communion and mission, communing deeply with God, and from that place of communion, going out on mission to the world. How well does your current life reflect that rhythm of going deep with God before going out to others?
11. If Jesus stood before you today and asked, as he asked Peter in John 21, "Do you love me?" What area of your life do you sense he might then point to and say, "Then give me that part as well"?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to carry into your week:

- **Identify one area of your life** that you have not fully surrendered to God. Spend time this week in honest prayer, naming it specifically and asking for the grace to open your hands.
- **Create space for stillness.** Set aside at least one period this week, even thirty minutes, with no agenda, no screen and no noise. Simply be present to God and listen.
- **Revisit your original commitment.** Whether your faith journey had a clear starting point or has been a gradual unfolding, take time to write down what following Jesus means to you right now, not years ago, but today.
- **Have an honest conversation.** Is there someone in your life whose opinion has been quietly setting the limits of your commitment to God? Consider whether it is time to bring that dynamic before God in prayer.
- **Pray the daily yes.** Each morning this week, begin your day with a simple, deliberate prayer of surrender offering God not just your day, but the specific parts of your heart and life you find hardest to release.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you that your invitation has never changed. You simply say, follow me. Forgive us for the ways we have held back, drawn lines, or allowed the voices of the world to set the limits of our surrender. Today, we choose again to say yes, not just in word, but in every part of our lives. Make us yours, more fully, more deeply, more daily. Amen.