



CONVERSATION STARTER

What is something you find nearly impossible to do without comparing how you're doing to everyone else?

DEEPER

Read John 13:36-37, John 21:15-23, Matthew 16:24-25

1. Jesus tells Peter that following him will eventually lead Peter somewhere he would not choose to go. How does this challenge the assumption that faithful obedience should produce a comfortable or predictable life? How can we distinguish between something being difficult and something being outside God's will?
2. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus describes discipleship as denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following him. Biblical self-denial is more than enduring ordinary inconvenience; it means surrendering our right to direct our own lives. What desire, preference, or expectation might Jesus currently be asking you to surrender to him?
3. Jesus' command to Peter carries the idea, "Keep on following me." Some trials last much longer than we expect and can make us want to quit. What circumstances are most likely to make you weary in following Jesus? What truths, habits, or relationships help us continue when obedience becomes costly?
4. Immediately after hearing Jesus' call, Peter turns toward John and asks, "Lord, what about this man?" Why is comparison such an effective distraction from following Jesus? How have comparisons involving another person's gifts, recognition, suffering, opportunities, or circumstances affected your own faithfulness?
5. Jesus answers Peter, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" God does not give every disciple the same assignment, opportunities, or hardships. What makes it difficult to trust Jesus when his path for someone else appears easier or more rewarding than ours? What would it look like for you to faithfully "stay in your lane" during this season?
6. "Stay in your lane" does not mean that Christians should become isolated or unconcerned about one another. How can we remain deeply involved in one another's lives without trying to control, judge (wrongly), or compete with each other?

7. According to John 14:2–3, Jesus is preparing a place for his people and will return to bring us to himself. How does knowing where Jesus is leading us give us courage to deny ourselves, endure hardship, and keep following him today?

NOTES

PRAYER

Ask Jesus to reveal where comparison, fear, disappointment, or the desire for control has distracted you from following him. Pray for the grace to trust the path he has chosen for you, the endurance to remain faithful through difficulty, and the courage to respond again to his command: “You follow me.”