Loving Life

A Journey Through the Gospel of John

June 9 & 10, 2007 • Matt Heard, Senior Pastor

Part 10: Following for Life (continued)
John 1:43-51

Life. It's defined by many people in many ways. At first glance, the definition seems like it should belong to the scientific and medical communities. However, the responsibility for figuring out life's definition actually lies at the feet of every human being. And our definition will be far more than a theoretical opinion isolated in a laboratory. It will be what illuminates the path of our journey on this planet and determines our steps every day of our lives.

Is life merely when cells are reproducing and a heart is beating? Every one of us has a deafening hunch that there's more to the depth and dance of life than mere physical and scientific definitions. But where do we turn for a greater, fuller, more accurate and credible understanding?

Two thousand years ago, a Galilean fisherman named Zebedee had two sons, James and his brother John. They were adventurous, opinionated, and lived life in large fashion—in fact, they were given the nickname "Sons of Thunder" for their boldness. One day, while they were working with their father repairing their fishing nets, a Rabbi named Jesus came to the lakeshore and called the two brothers to be disciples of His. At the time, little did they know the dimensions and implications of the call or the true identity of the One who was calling them. But follow Him they did and their definition and experience of life was forever changed as a result.

During those years of following Christ, absorbing His teaching, watching Him live, seeing Him die on the cross, witnessing His resurrection from the dead and ascension to the Father, receiving His Spirit and serving His kingdom purposes, John was impacted at the core of his life story, including his journey on this planet and his eternity.

Through John's first-hand observation and experience of Jesus Christ…through his relationship with Him…through His inspired words, we meet Jesus, the Author of Life and the Redeemer of our lives. He beckons us with an invitation. With a call. With a summons: trust and follow Me and you'll taste Life as it is meant to be lived.

Loving life is what many aspire to do. During this series, we are taking a journey through John's Gospel and discovering that, as we get to know the Giver of Life, loving life is impossible without loving Him. Loving life in a true and substantive way is not about loving *my* life…but instead loving the Author of Life and, as a result, living life as it's meant to be lived.

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NOTES:

Four results of following Jesus:

(1. Clarification of my Longings—v.38-41)

(2. Transformation of my Character—v. 42)

If you have a special need and would like someone to pray with you, please join us up front after the service.