

# DAY 17

WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 15

*"We must remember that it was not by interceding for the world in glory that Jesus saved it. He gave Himself, and our prayers for the evangelization of the world are but a bitter irony so long as we only give of our superfluity and hold back from the sacrifice of ourselves."  
—François Coillard*

**"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. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." Mark 8:34-35**

## TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Jesus had a way of flipping things over. Here Jesus describes discipleship to his followers in a way which must have felt like the world turned upside down: to follow the savior is to suffer, and to live we must die. In summary: relinquish yourself. Let go.

We are to let go of our desire for comfort and instead grab hold of our version of the cross if we want to follow him. Pursuing the savior and his kingdom is costly. Jesus calls each one of us to let go of our very lives to grab hold of him. Oswald Chambers says it well, "God wants to bring you into union with Himself, but unless you are willing to give up your right to yourself He cannot." To identify so closely with Jesus, to love what he loves, go where he leads, and do what he says...to truly live, we must relinquish ourselves. We must let go.

As we navigate church and life and pursue Houston with the gospel, my prayer is that individually and collectively we would be bold enough to let go of the things keeping us from depending on Jesus fully – whatever that is for each of us – and as a result we'd experience the fullness of life he offers.

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, I confess that I often desire to hold onto my life instead of relinquishing it to you – the source and giver of life. Please grant me and all your people in Houston the boldness to let go of ourselves and to faithfully do your will in this city. Please, God, bring your kingdom to Houston here and now. Amen.

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord, thank you for the grace you have shown me through Jesus. Please give me the boldness and love to pursue the people on my prayer list so I can point them to that same grace you so freely gave me. I pray that your love would be overwhelming and irresistible to those who encounter it. Amen.

RELINQUISH



Contributed by Clark Henry, Student Ministry Director | Christ Community Church  
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