

# HIDDEN IN CHRIST

## M&MS MARCH STUDY

### IN CHRIST I LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN SERVICE

#### **1)JESUS SERVES US**

Mark 10:45 (words of Jesus)

*"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*

It is highly critical to grasp the mission of Jesus. Christ is OUR need-meeter!

#### **Acts 17:24-25**

*"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."*

So we first need to be served by Jesus for the salvation of our soul. Gaining favor with God is about receiving His service which came as He laid His life down for you and me. It is not gained by you and I serving Him! We have to get this order correct.

Friends...are you hidden in Christ? Have you received His service of redemption for the salvation of your soul?

...But then we see His call for us...

## **2) WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE**

**In dying...**

Matthew 16:24-25

*“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘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 will find it.’”*

Two parallel realities here! Which life are you living for?

**In serving...**

1 Peter 4:11 *“whoever serves, [let it be] as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”*

**And why do follow His example? ....** “In order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

## **3) GOD DOES HAVE A PLAN FOR EACH ONE OF US**

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”*

- Right in the midst of the life you’ve been given, Jesus is calling you to die to yourself daily, and to be served by His Spirit so that you can pour out and lay your life down for the sake of God’s glory.

Galatians 6:9 *“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

## **TABLE TIME**

**Take time as a group to reflect, comment or ask questions about any content from the teaching portion.**

**Read together Philippians 2:3-11**, which is a portrait of a life laid down in service to others for the glory of God, with Christ as the shining example.

**3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**As a group, using the table on the next page**, record all of the directives the passage gives of a life of service, (including those inferred by Christ's example). Then in the corresponding box, independently write down a real-life example of what this will look like in YOUR life. Share with the group if there is time and as you are comfortable.

<b><u>My example:</u></b> “look not only to my own interests, but look to the interests of others”	when at my monthly women’s study, resist talking about myself, instead ask specific questions of someone I don’t know very well

### **BRINGING IT HOME - REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:**

Striving to serve others without the strength which God supplies might look like rehearsing your anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed, often getting flustered and frustrated, burned out, angry with circumstances, or becoming increasingly bitter. **Think about your own life and ask God to search your heart and show you any patterns of this in your own life. Write them here if that's helpful.**

In contrast, being served by Christ in our daily serving of others, looks like trusting Jesus by believing His promises, asking in prayer for help, genuinely loving others, & looking to Him to provide for moment-to-moment help in what He is asking us to do each day. This can happen even AS we struggle with some of the above emotions. Remember, it's where our eyes are - on ourselves or on the promises of God. **Think about your own life and jot down specific ways you can allow yourself to be served by the depths and riches of Jesus Christ every day. In other words, how can you step into the ways Jesus wants to serve you so that you can lay your life down?**

Keep in mind it doesn't end at laying down your life. Christ died, but raised from the dead to life eternal. He does the same thing with our lives - he asks us to die to ourselves, and then raises every part we laid down to a beautiful new creation that points to His glory. Watch and see Him do it!

**DIGGING DEEPER (optional reflective homework):**

- **Read: Isaiah 58:10-12**

10 If you pour yourself out for the hungry  
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
then shall your light rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be as the noonday.

11 And the Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your desire in scorched places  
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters do not fail.

12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

- **What is the “if” and “then” of this passage?**

- **What then is the connection between service and joy?**

Reflect on the following song lyrics in light of **Philippians 1:21, “To live is Christ, to die is gain.”** When Paul stated this he was saying that he wanted his entire life to point to and be about Christ, and that in his death, he gains everything because he will be with Christ, who is his life.

### **Lay it Down**

My dreams and my time, my desires and my worth  
And who I thought I'd be  
My days and my hours, my work and my might  
My productivity  
I lay it down, lay it down  
I lay it down, lay it down

My comfort, my honor, my need to control  
My right to being right  
My children's faith, my mothering heart  
These burdens they're not light  
I lay it down, lay it down  
I lay it down, lay it down

### **CHORUS**

Laying down my life, as Christ crucified  
He's leading me down that road  
Where he was pressed and bruised and tried  
He's showing me how to die  
That he might do a new thing  
That he might raise me to life

A life that's not mine a peace that's not real  
My being known  
To be understood and well thought of  
A righteousness of my own  
I lay it down, lay it down  
I lay it down, lay it down

To live is Christ to die is gain  
Stamp it upon my heart  
His presence with my body  
And his presence when I depart  
I lay it down, lay it down  
I lay it down, lay it down

## **CHORUS**

### **BRIDGE**

And a seed has to fall  
And a seed has to die  
To gain the beauty from the sun

### **CHORUS 2**

Laying down this life, as Christ crucified  
He's leading me down that road  
Where he was pressed and bruised and tried  
*He's showing me how to live*  
That he might do a new thing  
That he might win me for life

Consider making your own list as a mindful way to think about what your life might look like laid down in the same way Christ laid His down.

I'll say again... it doesn't end in death!! Christ died, but raised from the dead to life eternal. He does the same thing with our lives - he asks us to die to ourselves, and then raises every part we laid down to a beautiful new creation that points to His glory. Watch and see Him do it!