

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 31 March 2019**

**Speaker:** Tex Chettiar  
**Title:** Comfortable Culture  
**Passage:** Luke 9:18-25

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**Culture Says: "Comfort is King!"**

Our culture says that being comfortable is the most important thing. Our culture says that we need put our needs before anything else. But Jesus says something a bit more uncomfortable and counter-cultural in the passage in Luke 9.

**Read Luke 9:18-25**

Jesus shows us what his Kingdom is supposed to look like. It's an upside-down kingdom.

Peter has a revelation that Jesus is the Messiah. His hope is probably that Jesus will now overthrow the Romans and the Jewish people will be able to live the life that they wanted. Maybe looking forward to a life of luxury, and freedom to do whatever they want. A life full of comfort. But Jesus shows them that his kingdom will not come through military power, or political strategy, but instead through a life of sacrifice.

Jesus then shows us what it looks like to live in the kingdom of God. It's not a comfortable life, but instead it is about taking up our cross everyday. But what does it mean to take up our cross everyday? 1 John 3:16-18 helps us see what it means to take up our cross. Taking up our cross means loving other people and putting their needs above ourselves.

In the passage Jesus shows us how are we to take up our cross. It's not about trying really hard and looking to new and creative ways to do it. Instead Jesus puts the Gospel front and centre (v21-22). Jesus shows us that he is the greatest example and that putting the gospel front and centre is key. When we realise the gift of grace, we also realise that we get the gift of a new heart, and that means we have new desires, new longings. Our priorities change from being "comfort first, to kingdom first."

We are able to trust Jesus our king as we take up our cross because we see that he is not just a king we have to submit to, but instead we submit to him out of love, seeing what he has done on the cross for our sake.

We are all called to take up our cross daily, for the sake of the gospel. But it is not done so by trying harder, instead it is by looking at Jesus who has at great cost to himself given his life for us, so that we could be in relationship with Him.

**Questions to help provoke us:**

1. Are we looking to Jesus for total leadership in our lives, even if it means going against everything our affluent culture tells us to do?
2. Are we willing to turn away from ourselves and remove yourself from being the centre? And instead turning to Jesus and making him the centre?
3. Are we willing to suffer just as Jesus did?
4. Are we will to turn our questions from being: "what is the comfortable thing to do, but instead what is the right thing to do?"
5. Are we willing for our lives to be given completely for others and not kept for ourselves?