



Paradox  
*Truth that Breaks the Rules*

**Mark 8:34-38**

This Fall we'll be looking at paradoxes that Jesus proclaims—statements that seem absurd or self-contradicting, but when investigated prove to be true. Our pastors will try their best to make simple the complicated paradoxes, and we'll be able to answer our questions and process through them in small groups!

**SERMON SUMMARY**

*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to **save** their life will **lose** it, but whoever **loses** their life for me and for the gospel will **save** it.*

Mark 8:34-35

**The Paradox:**

**Real** life is found in **giving** it for Jesus.

- When Jesus says to lose your life for Him, he doesn't mean it lightly like how we lose our keys. Instead, to lose means to destroy, to die, or to bring to ruin.
- True life isn't found in what we get (accomplishments, wealth, pleasures, titles, etc), but in what we *give*. When we lose our lives for Jesus and the Gospel, it means we give our lives for what Jesus loves—people.

What does it look like to save your life or to lose your life?

<b>Save your life</b>	vs.	<b>Lose your life</b>
Jesus is riding <b><u>shotgun</u></b>		Deny yourself
Faith is risk-free and <b><u>comfortable</u></b>		Take up your cross
Obedience with <b><u>limits</u></b>		Follow Jesus

## DISCUSSION

### QUESTIONS

#### **Getting to know you**

- How does the world today say to obtain life?
- Was there anything new that you learned from the sermon? Or any perspectives that you held that have now changed about this passage?

#### **Into the Bible/Application**

- What are areas of your life or issues that you are refusing to deny yourself in/let Jesus take the driver's seat?
- What does carrying the cross mean for you? What are the big or little comforts that you have had to/need to give up to follow Jesus?
- Where have you placed a limit on following Jesus?
- What areas of your life are you saving for yourself?
- If someone were to observe your daily, moment-by-moment life, what would they say you're trying to find life in?

### PRAY

Pray that God would reveal the areas in your life where you are trying to save your life

Pray for each other and the things you discussed tonight

Pray that you'd answer Jesus' call to follow Him, and that it would result in intimacy & imitation

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ***College students***

**Epic this Thursday** will be at MU13 at 7:30pm. We'll start our series *Misconceptions*.

#### ***Men***

A men's camping trip will be October 19-21 in Astoria. Cost is \$40. If you would like to attend, please email our church office at [andrea@grantavebc.org](mailto:andrea@grantavebc.org).

#### ***All church***

The **NWiMPACT offering** for sharing the gospel in the northwest ends next week. You can give online or on Sundays as you are led.

**Exploring Membership** classes will be on Sunday, September 30, October 7, and October 14 at 11am in the Education Building. If you are interested in hearing about our church, what we believe, and how we function, come to this class!