

A Vibrant Relationship with Jesus

Part 1 of the *I'm In* series

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5 kinds of relationships you can have with Jesus:

- Casual – shallow
- Religious – empty
- Academic – intellectual
- Guilt-ridden – shame
- Vibrant – full of life

When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."
Matthew 8:18-20

A vibrant relationship with Jesus requires that you stop living life your way and begin to live life His way.

Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.
Luke 14:33

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.
Luke 9:23-24

His way:

- He's in the driver's seat, not me.
- Denying self instead of indulging self.
- The way of the cross instead of the way of the comfortable.
- Faith & risk over safety & security.
- Finding life by losing my life.

A vibrant relationship with Jesus requires you to turn from a distracted life to life of total devotion.

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
Matthew 6:24

A Question from our Core Commitments: *Am I consistently cultivating my own vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ?*

Next Steps

Review the 5 kinds of relationships above. Take some time to reflect on your current relationship with Jesus and write down the kind of relationship you have: _____

Pray this prayer: *Lord Jesus, I don't want to settle for anything less than a relationship with you that is full of life. Give me the willingness & the courage to stop living life my way and begin to live life Your way instead. Help me live devoted to you rather than distracted from you. In your name Jesus, amen.*

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Have you ever had a time where you would describe your relationship to Jesus as "vibrant"? What kind of relationship do you have right now?
- Read Matthew 8:18-22. Insert yourself into the story. How would you respond to Jesus if he were making these statements to you? What might Jesus be saying to you?
- Read through the list above describing Jesus' way of living. Talk about how His way goes against the world's way.
- What distracts you from living a life devoted to Jesus?
- Ask Jesus to ignite a vibrant relationship in each of you.