



Part 1: Back to Square One
Pastor Grant Fishbook
September 8 & 9, 2012

*You were running a good race.
Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?
– Galatians 5:7*

Restarting Our Faith Journey: Mark 8:27-36

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

I will re-establish the lordship of Christ in my life;

Jesus is my _____.

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

I will redefine what matters for eternity;

A life of following Jesus demands my life, my soul, my all.

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

I will recommit myself to living as a disciple of Jesus;

I will deny myself: I will renounce myself as the central focus of my life;

I will take up my cross: I will embrace the place of ultimate sacrifice;

I will follow Jesus: I will take the same road that Jesus took.

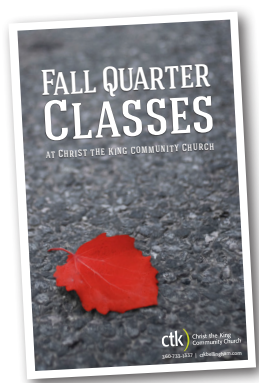
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³⁵ "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

I will rejoice that in dying I can truly live.

Communion

Communion is a remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross as the payment for our sins. We eat a small cracker of bread, symbolizing his broken body, and drink grape juice, symbolizing his shed blood. Everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior is encouraged to participate. If you don't yet have a relationship with Jesus, we invite you to sit back, observe and see what Communion is all about.



Next Steps

If God is showing you an area of your life where you need a restart, one of our fall classes may be just what you need to help make that change. Pick up a *Fall Quarter Classes* flyer in the Commons today and sign up at the Connection Point.

- Recovery Classes and Support Groups
- Alpha: A Practical Introduction to Christianity Bible
- Studies for Men and Women
- Financial Classes

Small Group Questions

- 1) What aspect of fall are you looking forward to most? (Regular schedule, back to school, change in weather, fall colors, or nothing at all?)
- 2) Have you ever restarted an aspect of your life? What was it, and what were your biggest challenges?
- 3) How did you fill in the question, "Jesus is my _____"?
- 4) Read Mark 9:27-36 out loud. How would you define a true disciple of Jesus? What do you think it means to deny self, take up your cross and follow Jesus?
- 5) What areas of your spiritual life need a restart? This is a personal question but the people in your group can help encourage you as you start over. We all could use a little encouragement, especially at the beginning!
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.