

Real.Life.Journey – Week 5: PROFIT AND LOSS

1) Did you memorize Philippians 2:14-15? Have someone in your group recite it from memory. Was this difficult? What was different, in you, this past week because you committed this to memory (or at least tried to)?

2) Think about a movie or TV show that you have seen recently. What was the direct or implied message regarding who is “right with God” and who is not (in other words, who is “in” and who is “out”)? How did it send that message? (Some may be more subtle than others, but every movie or TV show answers this question in one way or another)

Read Philippians 3:1-11

3) What were the messages that the Philippians were getting (or would soon get) about what it takes to be “right with God?”

4) What messages do we receive that are similar or parallel to that?

5) Gut-level honesty check: Which Jesus have you been following...

- **Republican Jesus:** is against tax increases and activist judges, but for family values and owning a gun.
- **Democrat Jesus:** is against Wall Street and Wal-Mart, but for reducing our carbon footprint
- **Therapist Jesus:** helps us cope with life's problems, heals our past, tells us how valuable we are and not to be so hard on ourselves.
- **Starbucks Jesus:** drinks fair trade coffee, loves spiritual conversations, drives a hybrid, and goes to film festivals.
- **Open-minded Jesus:** loves everyone all the time no matter what (except for people are not as open-minded as you).
- **Touchdown Jesus:** helps athletes run faster and jump higher than non-Christians and determines the outcomes of Super Bowls.
- **Martyr Jesus:** a good man who died a cruel death so we can feel sorry for him.
- **Gentle Jesus:** was meek and mild, with high cheek bones, flowing hair, and walks around barefoot, wearing a sash (while looking a lot like an Australian rugby player).
- **Hippie Jesus:** teaches everyone to give peace a chance, imagines a world without religion, and helps us remember that "all you need is love."
- **Yuppie Jesus:** encourages us to reach our full potential, reach for the stars, and buy a boat.
- **Spirituality Jesus:** hates religion, churches, pastors, priests, and doctrine, and would rather have people out in nature, finding "the god within" while listening to ambiguously spiritual music.
- **Inspirational Jesus:** good for Christmas specials, greeting cards, and bad sermons, inspiring people to believe in themselves.
- **Revolutionary Jesus:** teaches us to rebel against the status quo, stick it to the man, and blame things on "the system."
- **Guru Jesus:** a wise, inspirational teacher believes in you and helps you find your center.
- **Boyfriend Jesus:** wraps his arms around us as we sing about his intoxicating love in our secret place.
- **Good Example Jesus:** shows you how to help people, change the planet, and become a better you.
- **REAL Jesus:** crucified and resurrected, demands that I surrender all control of my life to him

6) What things do you need to now consider “rubbish” for the sake of Christ Jesus? In other words, what have you been relying on for your sense of identity and security? (e.g. money, status, power, career, family, etc.)

7) Read aloud together Philippians 3:8, and make a commitment to memorize this verse before the next time you meet:

***I consider everything a loss
compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
for whose sake I have lost all things.
I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.***

(Spend some time in prayer for one another)