

LifeGroup Study

The Life You Were Made For : Do The Hard Thing

Sermon Summary

When the future feels scary, our instinct is to grab what's easy, comfortable, and immediate. But the expedient path is a slow drift toward compromise. True meaning isn't found in comfort; it's forged when we voluntarily sacrifice the present for a better future. Rejecting shortcuts doesn't mean sitting still: it's faithful stewardship. We plant and water with diligence, and we trust God with the growth.

Key Verse

Mark 8:33 - "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/49674893>

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What idea from this week's sermon caught your attention?
2. Read Proverbs 7:1-27. The young man doesn't sprint into compromise, he drifts toward it step by step. What does slow drift actually look like in everyday life, and what early warning signs do you notice in yourself?
3. Expedience rarely announces itself as evil; it presents as efficiency. Where has a shortcut dressed itself up as wisdom in your life lately – in your finances, health, marriage, or work?
4. Read Genesis 25:29-34. Esau traded his entire birthright for a single bowl of stew because he was hungry right now. What's a "bowl of stew" trade you've made (or feel tempted to make)? Something cheap and immediate that costs you something that actually matters?
5. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Hungry, tired, and alone in the wilderness, Jesus rejected every shortcut Satan offered. When you're depleted and tempted to take the easy way, which of Jesus' answers do you most need: trust, worship, or obedience?
6. Striving is: forcing the outcome, skipping the process, measuring success by speed. Stewardship is: preparing the ground, embracing small daily steps, trusting God with the results. Where are you manufacturing outcomes instead of stewarding your responsibility?
7. Where have you drifted toward spiritual passivity (praying without acting) or shortcut striving (acting without praying)?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 and Proverbs 21:31. What does faithful, diligent preparation look like for you this week without trying to control the outcome?
9. What's one shortcut you will deliberately refuse this week – and what faithful, unglamorous step will you take instead? Tell the group, and decide who will check in with you before next week.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you that you meet us on the hard road.
We plant and water with diligence, but God, you give the growth.
Help us to reject shortcuts like you showed us Jesus.
God, give us strength for the hard road.