

SESSION NINE: What does it cost to follow Jesus? *Luke 9 v 18-27*
Slower and Full Route

1. People thought Jesus might be John the Baptist (who we met in chapter 3); or Elijah (a prophet, or messenger of God, in the Old Testament, who people thought would one day return to Israel); or another prophet who'd come back to life.
3. Because Peter isn't saying Jesus is simply a messenger from God from centuries before; he's saying he's the Christ, the King God had been promising to send for centuries, through those prophets.
5. Probably so that it won't come as a shock to them when it happens; and also so that Jesus can begin to teach them about *why* he had come to die and rise again. The connection between what Peter says and how Jesus responds is that now that the disciples know *who Jesus is*, he's going to start explaining to them *why he has come*. Everyone was expecting the Christ to be a political leader, a military warrior; instead, Jesus says, the Christ is going to be rejected and killed.
6. It means denying what is easiest or most pleasurable for us, and it means sacrificing daily ourselves, our interests, and our comfort; in a way, "dying" to ourselves daily as we live with Jesus as our King.
7. Because if we give our lives to Jesus, he'll "save" us ie: give us eternal life.
8. If we try to hang onto our lives, and make life now our be-all-and-end-all, then one day we'll lose our life (v 24). There's no point in having everything that the world can offer now, but then losing everything, including our lives, in the future (v 25). On the other hand, if we give up our lives (v 24), if we put Jesus before ourselves, then we'll find ourselves having real life, for ever. It's a strange truth that giving up control over our lives, and living for someone else, is how we find real, satisfying, endless life!
9. Either by turning our backs on him and what he says, and getting on with our lives as though he isn't there; or knowing who he is but not standing up for him whenever it's hard eg: when people at work are laughing about the Christian message, or when someone asks us whether we are a Christian or not.
10. If we don't acknowledge Jesus as being someone we know now, then he won't acknowledge us as someone he knows when he returns to judge the world and take his people to eternal life (see 13 v 25-27, which is part of Session 15). The warning is that if we don't let Jesus be Lord of our lives now, then he won't let us have life with him when he returns.