

## Death to Selfie – 3

We live in a time of instant success, fame and popularity.  
Or so it seems. Our culture is all about the power of self.  
We want it our way and we want it now!

### Mark 8:34–36 (NLT)

<sup>34</sup> Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. <sup>36</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?\*

- To serve Jesus and reach our fullest potential we must die to “Selfie”
- My Will – My Comfort – My identity
- When we die to self we find our identity in Him

### Philippians 2:5, 8-11 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

<sup>8</sup> he **humiliated himself** in **obedience** to God  
and died a criminal’s death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of **highest honor** and gave him the name above all other names,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that **Jesus Christ is Lord**,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## 2 Timothy 2:3, 9-10 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And because I preach this Good News, I am suffering and have been chained like a criminal. But the word of God cannot be chained. <sup>10</sup> So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

- Suffering is God's way of breaking us
- It is through humility that we learn we are not in charge
- It teaches us to trust His providence instead of our own
- He uses it to get the things out of us that would eventually destroy us
- The pride, the lust, the arrogance, the jealousy, the envy, the bitterness, the greed

Suffering shows us our weaknesses and reveals God's strength

A Messenger of Satan:

## 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

<sup>10</sup> That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul had learned the secret to dying to *Selfie*  
When we die to *Selfie* we learn to not have our eyes on ourselves

- When I'm facing difficulty it is Gods way of doing something in me that can't be done any other way
- When I feel like I'm losing I'm actually winning
- We are purified and cleansed of all other loves, desires and things we trust apart from Him
- It clears our spiritual minds and bodies and teaches us to rest in his care

### Exercise:

After pigging out all weekend and skipping my workout I don't want to start on Monday but after I settle in and my breathing and heart rate regulate I start to enjoy it.

- The endorphins kick in and I start to feel like I can take on the world
- Afterwards my head is clearer and my body feels cleansed

*We want to take a pill that helps us lose weight  
You can eat all you want and never need to exercise*

*Make an extra \$35,000 a month  
Working from home on your laptop*

*Get out of debt tomorrow no matter how much you owe  
Just call our toll-free number and the collectors stop calling*

They make great commercials but don't pan out!

### Hebrews 12:11 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Faith is no faith at all without an obstacle or trial

### James 1:3–4 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- The things we suffer in life allow us to overcome great obstacles and move mountains

When will it become easier to die to *Selfie*?

- *When will I stop lusting?*
- *When do I quit struggling with anger?*
- *When do I totally forgive all the people who have hurt me?*
- *How long before I stop cursing or lying?*
- *How long before I can control my appetite?*
- *How long until I become patient with my children?*
- *At what point do I naturally desire to let others in front of me in line?*
- *When does it get easier to give large amounts of money to missions or the poor?*
- *When do I stop being envious of the houses and cars and salaries my friends have?*

WHEN JESUS COMES BACK!

You're not in this alone – he just wants you to surrender

**Philippians 1:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

**Philippians 2:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

**Romans 14:7–8 (NLT)**

<sup>7</sup> For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, it's to honor the Lord.

*“There is a payoff involved when we surrender our lives to the authority of Christ and place Him first, removing ourselves from the place of ultimate worship”  
– Clayton King, Dying to live*

Alfred Nobel – Bio

*In 1888, Alfred Nobel had the rare privilege of reading his own obituary which a French newspaper erroneously printed, confusing him with his brother Ludvig. The obit dubbed the prolific Swedish inventor as “the merchant of death” and said that he made it possible to kill more people more quickly than anyone in history. That indictment sent shock waves through Alfred's soul. It became that defining moment that redefined his life and his legacy*

- When you think about what your life might be remembered for it has a way of resetting priorities

*Alfred Nobel was granted 355 patents during his lifetime, his most famous was nitroglycerine mixed with absorbent sand and shaped into sticks called dynamite.*

*His invention made possible the digging of tunnels, the building of dams, and the construction of canals.*

*But like any invention, it also had the power to be misused and abused. When put in the wrong hands, dynamite became a weapon of mass destruction. So Alfred Nobel devoted the rest of his life, and his death, to righting that wrong. After reading his obituary, Nobel rewrote his last will and testament. On November 27, 1895, he set aside a bulk of his estate to establish one of the most coveted awards in the world the Nobel Prize.*

*A hundred years later, his name is synonymous with the world's greatest advancements in science, literature, medicine, and peace. The cumulative good resulting from that award is incalculable. That is Alfred Nobel's legacy. Few things are as life- changing as a near-death experience.*

- Death is a mirror that gives us a glimpse of who we really are
- Death is a rearview mirror that puts the past into perspective
- The closer you come to death, the clearer and farther you can see
- Nothing recalibrates priorities faster than a cancer screening, a car accident, or a phone call from a military chaplain
- Important things become all- important
- And the unimportant things are revealed as insignificant

Near death experiences have a way of becoming the defining moments in our lives

You realize that every day should be lived like the first day and last day of your life! After all, it is

This day has never been before, and it will never be again  
You've got to make every day count

When choose to die to *Selfie* that is when we start to live for real purpose – for His purpose

Nebuchadnezzar builds a 90 ft tall statue:

**Daniel 3:16–18 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. <sup>18</sup> But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego new they would die if they didn't bow to the image
- It was all or nothing
- It was now or never
- It was life or death

*There comes a moment in life when you need to take a stand for what's right, take a stand for God*

### Daniel 3:22, 25 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> And because the king, in his anger, had demanded such a hot fire in the furnace, the flames killed the soldiers as they threw the three men in.

<sup>25</sup> “Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted. “I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire **unharmed**! And the fourth looks like a god\*!”

- The king releases them and declares that God is the God of the land
- “There is no other King who can rescue like this”

*The cross is God’s way of saying,  
“You are worth dying for.”*

When this life-giving truth penetrates your heart you must flip the coin and ask the question:

- Is He worth dying for?
- It’s called integrity

**Integrity:** the root word is *integer*. It refers to a whole number versus a fraction. In other words, integrity is about being All In. Integrity is an all-or-nothing proposition

If you don’t find your identity and security in what Christ has accomplished for you on the cross, you will try to hide your insecurities behind your hypocrisies

- You’ll fight your own battles
- You’ll try to create your own opportunities
- You’ll try to establish your own reputation
- And you’ll quickly discover that manipulation is exhausting



If you fear man, you'll offend God  
If you fear God, you'll offend man

You know who builds monuments to themselves?  
Those who think little of themselves  
Pride is a byproduct of insecurity

If we stop building altars to God we will start building  
monuments to ourselves

Somewhere along the way King Saul stopped building  
altars to God and started building monuments to himself

He had just disobeyed the Lord. He spared Agag's life and  
kept back the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat  
calves, and the lambs – everything, in fact, that appealed to  
them

1 Samuel 15:12 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> Early the next morning Samuel went to find Saul.  
Someone told him, "Saul went to the town of Carmel to set  
up a monument to himself; then he went on to Gilgal."

Do I think He's worth dying for?

Romans 14:8 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to  
honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the  
Lord.

- It starts with the little things
- It's time to make a stand