

What Do You Really Want?

2024-11-25 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Malachi 3:10

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Pastor Matt held up a day's worth of junk food next to a pile of vegetables with the same calorie count. One looks appetizing. The other actually satisfies. That is the choice Paul describes in Philippians 3, writing from prison: everything he had gained, he counted as loss next to knowing Christ. Pastor Matt called it a value proposition. Choosing what is better means something else has to fall below it. His hope was to move the room from knowledge to conviction, because everybody already knows Jesus is better. Only conviction moves you. And what falls below Christ is a conversation each person has to have with God.

To get started

- What is something good you gave up for something better, and was it worth it?

Looking back at the message

The calorie illustration is memorable and slightly silly. Use it, then get to the real cost.

- 1 Junk food looks more appetizing than vegetables at the same calorie count. Where do you keep choosing the lesser thing because it is easier?
- 2 Pastor Matt said most people already know Jesus is better than everything else. His hope was to move us from knowledge to conviction. What is the difference between the two?
- 3 Pastor Matt told about sacrificing a guitar he had wanted for years in a year-end offering, and later ending up with two guitars he never had to save for. What do you make of that story? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Philippians 3:7-11 and remember Paul is writing from prison after receiving a gift.

- 4 Read Philippians 3:7-9. What kinds of things is Paul counting as loss? Notice they were good things.
- 5 Paul uses a shockingly strong word, garbage, for everything he gave up. Why do you think he reached for that word?
- 6 Read verses 10-11. Strip away everything Paul lost. What is he actually after?
- 7 Read Malachi 3:10. What does God offer to those who test him in this? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

He was explicit that this looks different for each person. Do not let anyone prescribe for anyone else.

- 8 The whole sermon hung on one question: what do you really want? What is your honest answer?
- 9 For that answer to be true, what good thing would have to fall lower on your list?
- 10 Have you ever had this conversation with God directly, out loud, or only in your head?
- 11 The couple in the testimony lost half their income and were not shaken. What would that kind of peace be worth to you? OPTIONAL

The group together

The testimony in this service was from a couple in the church. Real stories carry this further than argument does.

- 12 Whose story of trusting God has shaped how you think about all this?
- 13 Why is it hard to say out loud what you actually want most?
- 14 What could this group do to help each other choose the better thing this year?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the one lesser thing you are willing to set below Christ this year?

You might pray about

- For clarity about what we actually want
- For conviction rather than only agreement
- For those who are afraid to let go of something they value