

What We Trade Away (2020)



Week Two: Commitment for Convenience

Overview

Have you ever made a bad trade? All of us have at some point. Maybe we gave away a car that we wish we would have held on to. Maybe when you were a kid, you traded away a baseball card that would have been worth a lot of money now. But what about trading away things of much greater value? Things such as our integrity, or our commitment, perhaps even a life of adventure for one of apathy? We make these trades all the time, though they may be a little more subtle. Over time, if we don't recenter ourselves – we can lose all of the good things, and only be left with the hollow shell of what we traded it for.

In this week's message, we discussed the trade of commitment for convenience. We do this often. We live in a culture that is obsessed with convenience, ease, and comfort. There's nothing inherently wrong with those things, until our desire for them begin to overrule our willingness to take bold steps of faith. We studied the story of Jesus walking on the water, as well as Peter taking the step of faith out to meet him. We want to be like Peter in our faith: bold and willing to step, even in the midst of uncertainty and questions. We have trust, as well, that Jesus will always be there for us and will hold us up when our feet begin to slip.

Reading and Discussion

1. Kaleb used an Easy Button in his sermon this past Sunday. For a fun ice breaker, ask the group to share one thing that they would use an Easy Button for, if they were real.
2. **Read Matthew 14:22-32.** Many of us may be familiar with this story, or have read it when we were kids. What stands out to you from this story reading it now? Share with the group.
3. In this moment, Peter had to choose between committing to Jesus and remaining in convenience in the boat. His faith propelled him as he stepped over the edge. Often, however, we do trade commitment for the ease of convenience. If you're comfortable, share a way in your life in which you have made the trade of commitment for convenience.
4. Kaleb encouraged us to ask the question: "What 'boat' of convenience do I need to step out of?" Is there an area in your life in which you're choosing convenience instead of commitment right now? Share, if you feel comfortable.

5. The main point from this past Sunday's message was: **"Pray. Step. Trust."** What is one concrete way you can point that path into action in your own life this week? As you close, pray for your group – that they would be encouraged this week in faith, courage, and trust in the Lord.