

Six Sigma
Black Belt – Raising the Bar
11/07/10

Introduction:

Raising the bar as Black Belts do.

Text:

Matthew 16:24

Thesis:

When Jesus asked us to follow Him, He raised the standard.

Discussion:

I) “If any man will come after me,”

- a) Jewish Religion
- b) John 6:60-68
 - 1) Many turned and walked away when Jesus began to teach of self sacrifice and unending love.
 - 2) Peter makes the great point of, to whom should we turn?
- c) Luke 6:46
 - 1) Matthew 21:28-31
 - 2) It easier to talk the talk
- d) Matthew 25:34-41
 - 1) The time when talking and walking meet.
 - 2) Luke 10:30-37 - Good Samaritan
- e) Matthew 23:13

- 1) The Jews had created a belief system that was selfish.
- 2) To follow Jesus, others must come first.

II) “let him deny himself”

- a) Matthew 22:33-40
 - 1) The Jews tried to trap Jesus in discussion.
 - 2) The point came through resoundingly clear; “PUT OTHERS FIRST”
- b) Matthew 19:16-22
 - 1) Rich Young Ruler
 - 2) His money had become his idol.

III) “and take up his cross”

- a) Matthew 5:11
- b) Matthew 5:44
- c) John 15:20
- d) Romans 12:14
 - 1) There will be some type of persecution.
 - 2) Perhaps intervening rules at work or even death.

IV) “and follow me”

- a) Time is of importance.
 - 1) John 9:4

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- 2) Luke 9:57-62
- 3) James 4:14
- b) With the Heart
 - 1) Matthew 5:8
 - 2) Matthew 12:35
 - 3) Matthew 13:15
 - 4) Matthew 15:18-19
 - 5) Romans 6:16-17
 - 6) How do I introduce Jesus into my heart?
 - (i) Invite Him into your daily life.
 - (ii) Consider how important He felt God's Word is...
 - (iii) Come to know God's Word...
 - (a) So often someone will say, "Go study your Bible..."
 - (b) Or someone will quote 2 Timothy 2:15 to "Study"...
 - (c) Yet we can begin today as individuals and families with the John Hurt Correspondence Course One.
 - (iv) Come to Jesus in obedience.

Conclusion

- 1) It's time to raise the bar.