

YOU SAY YOU WANT A RESOLUTION :: LANE JONES

INTRODUCTION

Surveys show that around eighty percent of us make New Year's resolutions. But the same surveys show that we break most of them in the first two months.. There is something in us that longs for a life filled with more happiness, contentment, and joy, yet we typically fall short in our pursuits. Perhaps we've been putting our energies into the wrong things. We'll look at what Jesus taught his disciples about what we are seeking.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your resolutions for this year?
2. What has been your track record on New Year's Resolutions?
3. Read John 15:1-11. This happiness, this contentment, this joy that we are after—how does Jesus say that we will find it?
4. Read John 15:12. How has Jesus loved us? How are we to respond to his love?
5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. What evidence is there in your life that you are connected to the Spirit?
6. Read John 15:13. Though you probably won't be asked to lay down your life for someone else, God may call you to lay down your rights and your needs. What rights and needs could he be calling you to put aside for someone else?
7. What is the most loving thing that you could do for someone else this week?

THINK ABOUT IT

Putting others first takes the focus off of us. This has the power to neutralize our tendencies to place ourselves in the center of our worlds. How much of your time do you spend loving others? How much of your time do you spend focused on yourself?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How will you remind yourself to love others this year?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12