

Introduction:

Our God is always ready to bring about a *Comeback*, and as we follow him, we are going to find ourselves in the midst of those comebacks. As we experience comebacks and as we strive to be like Jesus, we need to be ready to put one foot in front of the other and take each next step, because there is no shortcut to "the abundant life."

Scripture:

Malachi 3:6-7 - "I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed. Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned my decrees and failed to obey them. Now return to me, and I will return to you,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

John 10:10 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.":

For More. Read & Discuss Luke 4:1-13.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is one thing you have achieved or accomplished that required effort and focus over a long period of time?
- 2. Why are we as humans so preoccupied with finding shortcuts?
- 3. Have you ever tried a shortcut that didn't work like you'd hoped?
 - Why do endeavors like health, marriage, financial independence, and raising children not lend themselves to taking shortcuts?
- 4. Why does following Jesus & becoming more like him not lend itself to taking shortcuts?
- 5. How do we ensure that we continue to grow closer to Jesus; that we don't look up in a month or a year and realize that we haven't grown any closer to him?

Take the Next Step:

What is one step you can take this week to continue to put one foot in front of the other on your journey towards becoming more like Jesus?