



# Hustle

August 04, 2024 Message Notes  
*Matthew 16:24-26, Philippians 3:7-9*

## NOTES

At the heart of Hustle is the drive for one man to achieve his dream.

Have you ever wanted something so much—a dream, a goal, a desire—that your every waking moment was focused on achieving it?

Stanley's mission became: find the star, get back to coaching.

He finds Bo Cruz in Spain and brings him to Philadelphia but, after a losing debut, Bo wants to quit.

Stanley asks him the central question of the film:



“Are you obsessed? Because obsession for the game will be the only perspective that pulls you through.”

Obsession simply means: thoughts that preoccupy your mind.

Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

Matthew 16:24–26

What do you obsess over? What keeps you awake at night? What do you daydream about?

Here Jesus says, “If it’s anything other than me, then you risk losing your own soul.”

God wants you to want him more than anything or anyone else in this life so that in Him, you will find life.

When we give our obsessions to any object other than God, we open the door of our heart for the enemy to lie his way in - to steal, kill, and destroy us. The Bible calls this idolatry.

Throughout the Old Testament, we read how God’s people did this in practically every way possible.

In *Hustle*, Stanley places everything on the altar of basketball because that’s what the idolatry of his dream demands.

You know that a dream or an obsession has become an idol when it begins to dictate your behaviors.



The idols of our world don't want you to know their dirty little secret, which is: you will never find life in them.

To take up your cross means that you follow Jesus into all that the cross represents in your life. This is life.

- Sacrifice
- Forgiveness
- Mercy
- Grace
- Salvation

Your soul is the only priceless object in your life worth saving, and Jesus is inviting us to obsess over the one who saved it.

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37–39

We beat back idolatry by giving our first love to God with our whole being.

Whatever dream or vision might grab your obsession, it won't become an idol so long as you keep your loves rightly ordered.

Later, we find these two men on a mission, working together for each other's good.

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God



loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:3–5

Problems and trials -> develop endurance -> strength of character -> confident hope of salvation.

You know you are on the right path when you feel more of God’s love for you and your love for others is growing... even in the midst of challenges.

Do you feel God’s pleasure in the pursuit of your dreams? Or, do you feel ruled by your dreams?

Stanley took Bo’s burdens upon himself so that Bo could be himself. This is exactly what Jesus did for us.

“I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.”  
Philippians 3:7–9

Life with Jesus tasted so much sweeter to the Apostle Paul than lifeless idols.

How far would you be willing to go to gain Christ and become one with Him?

Jesus is waiting for you with open hands to receive all your garbage, your idols, and to give you new life. He’s obsessed over you.

