

Introduction

- Although Jesus calls to Himself a people, discipleship is, at its heart, about an _____ relationship.
- To be a follower of Jesus is not merely to have one's experience of life reflect that of His own, it is to share His _____ towards life itself and to live it out.
 - ⇒ Jesus lived with vibrancy and purpose, yet minimized the importance of things we associate with _____ in this life.

Key Point: As followers of Jesus, we are called by Him to reflect this _____ towards life in order that we might live purposefully and courageously as His people, serving His mission.

Matthew 16:24-28 — *The One Who Would Follow Jesus*

The Context

- In 16:13-20, Jesus asked the disciples who they believed Him to be, prompting Peter to confess that He was Messiah. Jesus then foretold that His authority to build His church would be delegated to Peter, and by extension, the other disciples.
- In 16:21-23, Jesus revealed to them the full implications of what it meant for Him to be Messiah: He would suffer at the hands of the religious and political leaders and be killed, but He would rise again on the third day. Peter then pulled Jesus aside and rebuked Him for saying such things, surely expressing not only His thoughts on this matter, but also those of the other Apostles as well.

Observations from the Text

1. Jesus *repeats* a statement made previously to the disciples (Matt.10:38) in order to help them properly understand discipleship.

Matt. 16:24—Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

- ⇒ This statement is filled with the _____ of discipleship.
- ⇒ In order to follow Jesus, one must _____ themselves.
“deny”—
- ⇒ The imagery of the _____ illustrates the seriousness of what is being said.

2. The grounds or basis for the previous exhortation is the *ironic* nature of life.

Matt. 16:25—For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- ⇒ The one who desires to _____ their life will, in the end, lose it.
“life”—
“save”—
“lose”—
- ⇒ The one willing to _____ their life for the sake of Christ will find it.
“find”—

3. Jesus then asks two hypothetical questions that further *explain* His previous statement.

Matt. 16:26—For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

- ⇒ There is nothing in this world more valuable than the _____ given to us by God.

4. Jesus then states that all people will be required to give an *account* of themselves before Him.

Matt. 16:27—*For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.*

⇒ This imagery is intended to convey Jesus as the one to whom all will give an _____.
“The Son of Man”—

5. In light of this, Jesus declares that some of the disciples will receive of *preview* of His coming glory.

Matt. 16:28—*Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.*

⇒ The certainty of Jesus’ return in glory will be confirmed by His _____.

Implications of the Text

1. Although they had been with Him, the disciples did not really understand the true _____ of discipleship.
2. The life that God has given to each person will eventually be _____ of them.
3. When He returns, Christ will relate to each person as either their _____ or their _____.
4. The fact of the Transfiguration should remind His followers of the true _____ of their Master.

Principles for Courageous Discipleship

- The statement of Jesus in Matt. 16:25 is _____ for our understanding of discipleship given that it is His most oft repeated saying throughout the gospels (Matt. 10:39; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24, 17:33; John 12:25).
- What Jesus called His disciples to during His earthly life, He _____ through His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
 - In His *Death*:
 - (1) He secured _____ for our sin (Rom. 3:23-25)
 - (2) He _____ us from the power of sin (Rom. 6:6)
 - In His *Resurrection*:
 - (3) He secured new _____ for us both now and forever (Rom. 6:4-5)
 - In His *Ascension*:
 - (4) He sits at the right hand of God as our _____ (Acts 5:31) and _____ (Rom. 6:12-13)
- As Jesus’ followers, we must share His posture towards the things of this life, finding our ultimate identity and security in all that our Heavenly Father has provided for us in _____ (_____).