

Discipleship

Matthew 16:20-27

Introduction

● Jesus had just given to Simon the nickname Peter (which means r_____) because of his confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

1. Peter's concept of "the Christ" was incomplete. He only thought of "the Christ" as the final k_____ of Israel who would reign over the world forever.
2. The Jews of Jesus's day had the same incomplete picture. That is why Jesus commanded the disciples not to t_____ anyone that He was the Christ (v. 20).

● Jesus communicated a complete picture of the Christ. Verse 21 states that He **showed** them (or explained to them). He did this through the Scriptures.

1. Zech 9:9 – the Christ must go to J_____
2. Dan 9:25; Is 52:13,14 – the Christ must s_____ many things
3. Is 53 - The Christ must be k_____
4. Ps 16:10; Is 53:10 – the Christ will be r_____

● After Peter rejected this, Jesus called the Rock

1. S_____ - which means one who opposes
2. A s_____ block – he did not have God's interests in mind.

● Jesus uses this opportunity to teach about discipleship

1. Let us not have s_____ hearing when it comes to the things of God.
2. Let us listen to what discipleship is and respond.

Begins with self-denial to gain Christ (24a, 25, 26)

● Being self-_____ is contrary to God's design for humanity. God created mankind to be _____ centered.

- ① S_____ is simply going against our original design.
- ② Our natural bent is to p_____ our own life but in so doing we actually l_____ it (v. 25a).

● What is worth exchanging your life for? (v. 26)

- ① Is gaining the whole w_____ worth it?
- ② Only C_____ is worth the exchange because we gain e_____ life, which is a personal relationship

to Christ that lasts forever (Jn 17:3).

- Discipleship begins with denying the self-centered life to gain a personal relationship with Christ.

Requires suffering for the sake of Christ (24b)

- The cross was a g_____ picture of suffering
 1. 100 years earlier, _____ Jews were crucified.
 2. 30 years earlier, _____ Jews were crucified.
- To take up YOUR cross r_____ suffering in some way
 1. Acts 14:22 – we m_____ suffer many tribulations
 2. Rom 8:17 – we are children of God, if we suffer with Christ
 3. Phil 1:29 – suffering for Christ’s sake has been g_____ us
 4. Jn 16:33 – while in this world, we will have tribulation.
- In what ways might you suffer for being a believer in Christ?
 1. R_____
 2. T_____ badly
 3. J_____
 4. O_____ by your family
 5. K_____
- Why is suffering necessary? – it is the natural result of the world going the opposite way that Christ is going.

Demands submission to the word of Christ (24c)

- The word follow is in a tense which requires _____ action and so refers to a lifestyle.
 - ① Following is not physically following Him (J_____ did that)
 - ② Following is following Him in o_____
- It is w_____ to submit to Jesus’s word (Matt 7:24-27) and that wisdom is proven in the experience of mankind.
 - ① A marriage full of love and respect versus a marriage of convenience (Eph 5:22,23).
 - ② A diligent worker who works like he is working for the Lord versus one who’s just collecting a paycheck (Eph 6:5-8).
 - ③ A person preserving their sexuality for the bounds of marriage versus one who does not (Heb 13:4).
 - ④ A person who uses words to build up versus one who uses words to tear down.

Conclusion - No sacrifice, no suffering, no obedient act for the sake of Christ will go unnoticed. When Jesus returns in glory, He will r_____ every single deed (v. 27)