

Lose Your Life

Matthew 16

Welcome back and here we go!

Last week we talked about who Christ is, or more importantly, who do we say Christ is and what does that mean to us. So, let's catch up!

Matthew 16:21-23

It is easy to get on Peter's case, but trust me, we are not far from the same problem.

- a) We accept Christ
- b) Reject the work of Christ
- c) Receive truth then don't apply it
- d) Don't live abundant lives.

I certainly would not want Jesus looking at me and saying "get behind me satan". Yet, when I put my ideas, my goals, my ambitions, ahead of Christ's, I am basically saying those things are more important. Peter, in refusing Jesus, was saying, "*I know better. Your way is too hard and too harsh,*" which leads us to our next block...

"... For you are ... mindful of the things ... of men."

Matthew 16:24-27

1) What does it mean to follow Jesus?

The Lord says in order to follow Him, we must first deny ourselves and take up our own cross. The denial of self comes in many ways. These are the obvious ways.

... Stop drinking ... sexual abstinence ... financial restraint ... giving...

But there are the mental attitudes as well: deny myself to the right for revenge ... my right to anger ... right to unforgiveness ... even to give up the right to shame.

2) How does a person save their life by losing it?

Of course to really understand this, we always have to come back to the place of understanding of '*what is life?*'

Literal – Figurative – Spiritual / Carnal Thought

My mental attitude is everything.

3) How much of your time (literal) do you spend pursuing God?

Most of us would like to say “All of it!” In your spiritual / carnal thought life, you might say ‘most of it’. But in the denial of self, our end result really *tells the tale of the tape!*

In regards to worry / stress / anxiety / lack of confidence....

4) How much time spent in this state is gaining life?

Matthew 16:24-27

In terms of getting things....

Proverbs 4:7 'Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.'

In terms of time spent learning, learning about Christ, the more we understand, the easier life becomes... if we can really understand our #1 goal is to serve God.....

'For what will it profit a man [woman] if he [she] gains the whole world, and loses his [her] own soul?'

5) How much time do you give away to others?

We can deny vocally that we are losing --- giving away our life in the service of the Lord, but what is our life?

- Literal – where I am spending my time
- Figurative – the things in my life
- Spiritual / Carnal – thought life... what am I thinking about?

These things are the truth. By the way, there is always room for growth.

Are you tired of losing peace? Lay down your life and find reward!

Let's ask the Holy Spirit *'where I need to deny myself'*.

6) Where do you need to deny yourself? (private question)

Let's pray.