



Starting Points: The Cost, the Cross, and You

Matthew 16:24-28

Series Summary

We all want our lives to matter. But how do we know if we're doing the right thing? In a world where nothing is guaranteed, nothing is certain, you can build a life that can last. In the Bible, we can find practical guidance for everyday life as learn build a life that will last as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Theme Passage

Matthew 5:16 – In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Main Text

Matthew 16:24-28 (ESV) – ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 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? 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. 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.”

Big Idea – Trust the Lord: The Right Destination Begins with the Right Direction

Three Steps to Live a Life that is Built to Last

Step #1 – The Principle: Learn the Law of Sacrifice to Live a Life that Lasts

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) – ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. “

Step #2 – The Paradox: You Will Discover Your Victory in the Midst of Your Loss

Matthew 16:25-26 (ESV) – ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 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?

Step #3 – The Parousia: Live Your Life in Pursuit of the Prize and Be Ready to an Account

Matthew 16:27-28 (ESV) – 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. 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.”

Memory Verse

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) – Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Challenge:

You are called to consistently apply the divine principles and truths found in the Word of God. Take the next step in your study by (1) Discussing and applying the sermon with your small group, (2) Participating in a Sunday School class, or (3) Answering the questions that follow.

- How would you explain the “Law of Sacrifice” to help encourage other Christians?
- What are practical ways that a Christian can carry out the commands discovered in Matthew 16:24?
- What practical lessons do you learn from verses 25-26 that help you live a life for Christ?
- What lesson do you learn from this quote? “God is still on His throne, we’re still on His ‘footstool,’ and there’s only a knee’s difference between.” – Jim Elliot