

Lost and Found

Matthew 16:24-27

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Contextual Background- Jesus has just come into the district of Caesarea Philippi and began to question His disciples about who the people say He is (16:13). The answers varied from John the Baptist to other prophets (16:14). When Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do they say He is?” Peter answered and said, “He is the Christ” (16:16). After blessing him for his answer, Jesus then tells Peter how He will use him (16:17-19). From that point on, Jesus turned His focus on earth from a public ministry to teaching His disciples about His upcoming death and resurrection (16:21). After Peter tried to rebuke Him, Jesus instead rebuked Peter (16:23) and then turned to teach all of His disciples.

Sermon Outline

Position Requirements—V. 24

- **Wishes-** to have a desire for something., wish to have, desire, want
 - The tense of the verb is present and active, meaning that a person has a continued desire
 - As believers, we must have a resolve to follow God (Daniel 1:8), no matter where that takes us (Matthew 8:20)
- Jesus gave three requirements to be His disciple:
 - Self-Denial
 - § **Deny-** to act in a wholly selfless manner, deny oneself
 - § The denial of ourselves means to give up our ambition and our will
 - § To deny yourself, you must first acknowledge yourself
 - § Believers die to themselves daily (1 Cor. 15:31)
 - Take up your Cross

§ Being citizens of Rome, the disciples understood that a cross was an instrument of death (John 19:17). They understood Jesus was saying that they must be ready to face death for their allegiance to Him.

§ In the Roman Empire, a convicted criminal, when taken to be crucified, was forced to carry his own cross. This showed publicly that he was then under and submissive to the rule he had been opposing. Likewise, Jesus' disciples must demonstrate their submission to the One against whom they had rebelled.

§ Jesus was letting them know that this was a lifelong journey that would only end at death (Philippians 1:21)

- Follow Jesus

§ **Follow-** to follow or accompany someone who takes the lead, accompany, go along with

- transition to the figurative meaning to follow someone as a disciple, be a disciple, follow

§ The writer of Hebrews tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus who is our pioneer in the faith (Hebrews 12:2)

§ We forget our past, and press forward towards the upward call of Christ (Philippians 3:12-14)

Lost and Found—V.. 25

- Jesus uses the same word here as in verse 24, “wishes”

- Jesus was asking the disciples what they desire to do

- **Save-** to preserve or rescue from natural dangers and afflictions, save, keep from harm, preserve, rescue, save from death

§ The disciples would still have the image of death in their minds; therefore, they understood that following Jesus would lead to their death

§ Trying to save or keep our lives outside of Christ will result in us losing our lives

- Lose your life for Christ's sake

- Losing our lives for Christ means to give up our will for His will (1 Peter 2:16)

- When we do that, we find our purpose in life

- Joseph's story shows that following God can take us to places we don't want to go, but we always will arrive where Christ wants us

What's Worth Your Soul? —V. 26

- **Profit-** to provide assistance, help, aid, benefit, be of use
- **Forfeit-** to experience the loss of something with the implication of undergoing hardship or suffering, suffering damage/loss, forfeit, sustain injury
 - What good will it be for the person who gains the possessions of the world yet is deprived of their life?
 - Solomon was a man who gave into every pleasure he had, but in the end, said it was all vanity (Eccl. 2:1-11)
- Jesus is also asking what will compensate for the loss of our souls?
 - In desperation, Esau sold his birthright to Jacob (Gen. 25:29-34)
 - What are we willing to give up for our souls?

Judgment of Christ – V. .27

- The Son of Man was the title Jesus used as the Messiah. The meaning of it was that Christ was fully God and fully Man
- Jesus is teaching the disciples about His 2nd coming. He was telling them that when He returns, He will act as judge and repay everyone according to their deeds
 - When Christ returns, our work will be tested (1 Cor. 3:13-15)
 - Believers appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be recompensed for their deeds (2 Cor. 5:10)