

Following Jesus requires taking up our cross

1. The setting for Jesus' statement about the cost of discipleship
 - A. Peter recognized that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God – Matthew 16:13-20 (950)
 - B. Peter rejected Jesus' revelation of His death and resurrection – Matthew 16:21-23 (951)
2. What is the cost of discipleship? – Matthew 16:24-27
 - A. Discipleship requires denying ourselves
 - 1) Denial of self is more than depriving ourselves of some comfort
 - 2) Denying ourselves requires setting aside our interests for the Gospel – 2 Timothy 2:1-6 (1155)
 - a. The good soldier serves the interests of his commanding officer – vs. 3-4
 - b. The athlete trains according to the rules – vs. 5
 - c. The hardworking farmer is rewarded for his hard work – vs. 6
 - B. Discipleship requires taking up our cross
 - 1) The cross was a vivid picture of death
 - 2) We must die to live – Galatians 2:20 (1129)
 - a. We are crucified with Christ
 - b. Christ lives in me
 - c. My life is lived by faith in Christ
 - C. Discipleship requires following Jesus
 - 1) Following Jesus requires a singular focus illustrated by three potential disciples – Luke 9:57-62 (1005)
 - a. The abandonment of comfort
 - b. The urgency of the mission
 - c. The necessary focus
 - 2) Illus. A.W. Milne – “When he came there was no light. When he left there was no darkness”
3. The rationale for the cost of discipleship – Matthew 16:25-27 (951)
 - A. The paradox of saving and losing – vs. 25
 - B. What is the value of a soul? – vs. 26
 - 1) Paul endured everything for others to come to Christ – 2 Timothy 2:10 (1155)
 - 2) Illus. Jim Elliot – “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose”
 - C. Our eternal reward is coming when Christ returns – vs. 27
 - 1) Our ultimate reward is to live with Him forever – 2 Timothy 2:11-13 (1155-56)