

## Matthew 16:21-28

### Sermon Outline:

#### 1. Jesus predicts his suffering

- It's necessary because it's the will of the Father
  - He MUST go
  - He MUST die
  - He MUST raise again on the 3rd day
- Peter had his own view of the Messiah
  - He identified Jesus as the Christ, but failed to understand the plan
  - The message of the cross is a stumbling block to the Jew
- Jesus rebukes Peter
  - The rock becomes a stumbling block
  - Peter was thinking in the ways of man
  - The ways of man are in the way of the ways of God

**\*\* The cross was not an accident but intentional**

**\*\* Often times our preconceived notions of Jesus keep us from following Him**

**\*\* All men are human and mess up**

#### 2. The cost and reward of following Christ

- get behind me— in contrast to Peter rebuking Jesus... the ways of man
- Take up your cross
  - A call to die
  - To give up our natural inclinations and part from will afflictions of the flesh, and thus give our consent to be reduced to nothing provided that God lives and reigns in us” — Calvin
- Deny yourself
  - Denying and following are not in themselves a redemptive act
  - Our sharing in Jesus afflictions shows our commitment to live as He lived
  - A servant is not above his Master
- Follow Jesus
  - He is our aim and our goal
  - The call to follow Christ is the call to **follow** Christ
- This is the only way to find life and salvation(this is the best life)
  - What gain?
  - What price can man pay?
    - What gain?
    - What price can man pay?
- This life may be hard, but it will be worth it
  - Motivation— his return

- Zechariah 14:5— “The Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him”
- Each will be repaid for **what he has done (the life viewed in totality)**
- **1 Corinthians 3:10-17**

**\*\* The call to follow Jesus starts with dying to oneself**

**\*\* Suffering comes before the crown**

**\*\* Only in following Christ can man not lose his soul**

**\*\* It'll be worth it in the end**

### **Small Group Discussion:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and the sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that His suffering is necessary according to the will of the Father? How does this shape our understanding of God's plan for redemption?
3. What does it mean for Jesus to say that He **MUST** go, **MUST** die, and **MUST** rise again on the third day? How does this emphasize the intentionality of the cross?
4. Why is the message of the cross a "stumbling block" to the Jewish people, according to Jesus? How do we see similar misconceptions about Jesus' role today?
5. How does Peter's misunderstanding of the Messiah reflect human expectations versus God's plan? How can our preconceived ideas about Jesus sometimes keep us from fully following Him?
6. Jesus calls Peter a "stumbling block." What does this reveal about how human reasoning can sometimes interfere with God's purposes? Have you experienced moments when your own thoughts or plans were in conflict with God's will?
7. What does it mean that “the ways of man are in the way of the ways of God”? How can we guard against falling into this mindset?
8. What does it mean to "deny yourself" in the context of following Jesus? How do we practice this in our daily lives?
9. Calvin suggests that to follow Christ, we must "give up our natural inclinations and part from the afflictions of the flesh." How does this challenge our cultural views of comfort and success?

10. What does "taking up your cross" look like in the modern world? Is it always a literal form of suffering, or could it manifest in different ways?
11. How can we differentiate between self-denial that leads to spiritual growth and self-denial that leads to self-condemnation or unhealthy repression?
12. How does the promise of Christ's return motivate us to endure suffering and hardships now?
13. What is the significance of the statement, "Each will be repaid for what he has done"? How does this influence our understanding of reward and judgment in the Christian life?