

# FRIENDSHIP COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Pastor Bobby D. Hamilton, Th.M.

## Dedicated to Discipleship Series

### Sermon Notes

#### Part 2

It Costs to Follow Jesus

Matthew 16:24-28

Former German pastor, theologian, and seminary professor Dietrich Bonhoeffer made an astounding personal quote about discipleship that has truly stood the test of time and continues to be true. His quote was “salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you”. Bonhoeffer not only uttered these words, but he lived them to the point of death as he was hanged by the neck from Adolf Hitler’s gallows as a result of his commitment to Jesus Christ rather than compromising for the Fehrer. Bonhoeffer paid a high price for following the path of Jesus Christ, and today we are not exempt from doing the same.

In Matthew 16:21-23, while in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus reminded His disciples about His journey to Jerusalem where he would suffer many things from the religious establishment, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Obviously, Jesus’ Jerusalem plan did not sit well with Peter because he took Jesus aside and began to “rebuke” Him. (Gr. Epiteimaō = to denounce, to speak authoritatively against.) Since the verb is a present active infinitive it suggests that Peter did it repeatedly. Jesus looked Peter directly in the face and replied, “Get behind Me Satan”. Truly Jesus knew that the origin of Peter’s rebuke against Him stemmed from Satan. Just as Satan has opposed Jesus’ agenda in Matthew 4:8-10. Satan knew that the cross would be the cornerstone of his own defeat, and the bridge of restored relationship with the Father to all who would by faith come to Christ. Therefore, he attempted once again unsuccessfully to get Jesus to side-step the cross.

It was at this juncture that Jesus told His disciples then and all the would-be disciples now the price-tag for following Him.

#### **I. Resign from being the boss of our own lives. (v24)**

He must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me

All three verbs pertain to the denying of one’s own authority over their own lives.

The first two verbs “deny” and “take up” are aorist imperatives indicating a decisive action, but the last verb “follow” is a present imperative which indicates a continuous action.

A disciples path must include self-rejection, suffering, and submission.

In short, it all means to live your life by saying no to what you would want and yes to what God wants for your life. (See 2 Corinthians 5:14-15) ... no longer live for ourselves.

Where do you struggle with this? Why do you struggle with this?

“A Place to Begin Again”

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### II. **Remain focused on forever. (v.25-26)**

Verses 25 and 26 all begin with “for” (Gr. *gar*) which suggests that Jesus is arguing His case logically. He is indicating why we should comply with the commands in verse 24. He bluntly says in a paradoxical way that those who seek to save their life will lose it and those who lose it for His sake will truly find life indeed.

This statement is tied to Peter’s rebuke in Matthew 16: 22, where in essence Peter is saying Jesus protect yourself. God forbid, never shall this happen to you. Jesus in verses 25-26 is saying that if you live a self-protecting life, you’ll never find the satisfaction or the life that you are looking for in this life. Jesus is saying, I didn’t come here to live life safe and secluded, I came to do my Father’s will. Therefore, if you live for your own personal interests and your own advancement, you lose!

Secondly, He talks about the soul (Gr. *psyche* – life/inner self) See:

Matt. 10:28, John 13:38, Heb. 4:12, 1 Thess. 5:23

Jesus is showing the foolishness of gaining material wealth “gaining the whole world” in exchange for one’s life. He’s saying, do the math- it’s a bad deal.

Temporal blessings can never bring eternal satisfaction. (See Ecclesiastes 2)

Go review Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:19-21 ... *do not lay up for yourselves...* and answer this question- Where is your treasure? The heart always clings like a boa constrictor to that which is our treasure.

### III. **Remember payday is on the way (v.27-28)**

In verse 27 we are introduced to Jesus’ 3<sup>rd</sup> argument which is introduced by the word “for” (Gr. *gar*). This verse teaches eschatology and Christology. Jesus will return with the glory of His Father (see Daniel 7:13, Matthew 25:31-32, Revelation 19:11-16) Jesus is pointing to His return and His reign. This knowledge should encourage the disciples to stay faithful to their calling. As stated in Matthew 5:12, rewards are part of His return. Also, other passages point to the Lord’s reward system which are often called “crowns”. (See 1 Cor. 9:25, Phil 4:1, 1 Thess. 2:19,2 Tim 4:8, Revelation 2:10)

In verse 28, Jesus gives a comment about His future return which is previewed for Peter, James, and John on the mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8.

Put it all together and it means that we who deny ourselves for Christ now, can enjoy ourselves in Christ later.

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In closing, Jesus totally interrupted Peter's program for happiness. What he hoped for in Christ was shattered by Jesus' comments about suffering, death, and resurrection. What about you? What program for happiness has been your motivation for following Christ? Jesus is saying follow Me and I will give you much more than moments of happiness.

"A Place to Begin Again"