Matthew 16 2021

Matthew 16:24-28

Communion Sunday

**Matthew 16:24-28 (NIV)**   
24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.   
25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, **but whoever loses his life for me will find it.**  26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world**, yet forfeits his soul?** Or **what can a man give in exchange for his soul?**27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.   
28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Jesus is talking to His disciples. This may have the clearest presentation to the men He had especially chosen men found in the Bible. Jesus told them in other passages that it would cost them something to follow Him!

Jesus is instructing His disciples giving them three laws of discipleship – for them and for us!

1. The Law of self-denial.
2. The Law of Sacrifice.
3. The Law of submission.

Then Jesus tells them – and us – they and us will be rewarded – rewards that belong to all disciples!

When some of the James and John asked Jesus to put them in high places in His Kingdom they wanted a place of power and honor. In asking for this, Peter and John were putting themselves in the place of God. They were not tuned into the teachings of Jesus.

They were disobeying the three laws we see in our text:

1. The Law of self-denial.
2. The Law of Sacrifice.
3. The Law of submission.

They had a wrong attitude: they were not living for Jesus; they were living for themselves! They were showing their ego. They were wanting power and honor for themselves, and their ego was puffed up.

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.   
25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, **but whoever loses his life for me will find it.**

**Luke writes verse 24 differently – Luke adds the word *daily!*** Luke 9:23:

This means daily it is good that Luke adds the word daily so let me get up in the morning we should remember that we should die to self and that we should live for the Lord on that day and each day, so the word daily is especially important.

In fact, each day we moment of the day we can say I am living this for the Lord, so it is when we rise in the morning until we go to bed at night we are living for the Lord. What we say what we do even our feelings have to be given to the Lord. There.

This is what Paul says in first Corinthians 15:30 - 31 And as for us why do we endanger ourselves every hour I face death every day yes just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord.

From Philippians chapter 3; 7 through 11 we read what the Apostle Paul wrote: But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ what is more I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord for who sake I have lost all things I consider them garbage that I may gain Christ and be found in him not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but for that which is through faith in Christ the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith I want to know Christ yes to know the power of his resurrection and participate it is sufferings becoming like him in his death and that so somehow attaining the resurrection from the dead.

The disciples were facing and would be facing death in the future. It is then for us to die too self-daily. In I Corinthians 15:31 Paul tells us that he faced death daily. Paul tells us in Philippians 3:8-10 that he wanted to be like Jesus who willingly went to the Cross.

During the days of Paul and the disciples many Christians were murdered by Nero and other government leaders. If I remember correctly there were ten waves of persecution and people were being fed to the lions they were used as candles in the garden of the king and other places for people to be entertained.

Some Christians were crucified. Peter died for Christ. Acts 12:2 says that James the son of Zebedee was beheaded. These men and many others died for their faith in Jesus.

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

When a person is not willing to accept the risks of being a Christian, that person will never live the abundant life spoken about by Jesus in John 10:10:

John 10: 10 the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.

When Jesus comes again, at His second coming, our personal accounts will be settled. We will receive what the Lord has promised us.

See 1 Corinthians 3:10-15: verses which show us the love and grace of the Lord:

Still no Christian should hide behind what Paul is saying. We fail daily but such is not an excuse. The Bible tells us that excuses are like leaky cisterns they do not hold water!

Reading from I Corinthians 3:10-15:

It looks like a conflict – but our passage today and what Paul is saying are two sides to the same truth. It is up to the Lord what awards (inheritance) we will receive.

28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

It is generally accepted that this verse is part of Chapter 17. The disciples were present at the Transfiguration of Jesus. Peter speaks about this in II Pete 1:16-18:

Second Peter 1: 16 to 18 reads for we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we were told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power but we were eyewitnesses of His Majesty he received honor and glory from God the father when the voice came to him from the mad majestic glory saying this is my son in whom I love with whom I am well pleased we ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven and we were with him on the sacred mountain.

We see in verses 25 the warning of Jesus:

25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, **but whoever loses his life for me will find it.**  26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world**, yet forfeits his soul?** Or **what can a man give in exchange for his soul?**

**It is very it is awfully hard to deny oneself. We are not talking about denying ourselves some special dessert to some kind that we like to eat that may be hard enough to do but we are to deny oneself when it comes to being a witness for Christ and standing up for him. Standing for the Truth with a big T!**

**I am reminded of Justin martyr. Justin martyr was born in 100 AD and died in 165 and he died a cruel death because he would not worship the gods of the rulers of that day. He was tortured at the stake and died in that way as many others in those years did.**

**Justin Martyr taught that Scripture Alone is the truth.**

Martin Luther did the same thing. Luther stood his ground on Scripture. Those in the church wanted Luther killed. But a Prince of the day granted him asylum. but we make a stand for the Lord and give a witness and or testimony for him the Lord will provide a way and he will provide a way for us to handle the situation that is before us.

I think our problem is we think we know the Bible better than we do. And forget more – we are self centered and know it alls.

**Luke 9:25-26 (NIV)**   
25  What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?   
26  If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**Luke 9:25-26 (KJV)**   
25  For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?   
26  For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels.

Romans 12:1 (KJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Evidently we all have 30,000,000,000,000 – that is 30 with 12 zeros behind it – 30 trillion cells – of all kinds. Our bodies I am told make two to three million new blood cells every second.

We are all wonderful works the Lord wants committed to Him *daily.*

We're pilgrims on the journey  
Of the narrow road  
And those who've gone before us line the way  
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary  
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace  
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses  
Let us run the race not only for the prize  
But as those who've gone before us  
Let us leave to those behind us  
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives  
CHORUS:  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way

May the footprints that we leave  
Lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone  
And our children sift through all we've left behind  
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover  
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find  
REPEAT CHORUS  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
Lyrics found <a href="https://www.elyrics.net/read/s/steve-green-lyrics/find-us-faithful-lyrics.html">here</a>

*Let us recommit ourselves to the Lord today – at this communion service!*