



TEXT:

Matthew 16:21-26

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

RECEIVING THE REVELATION & CORRECTION OF GOD:

1. At times we _____ to understand revelation because of our _____.

a. Matthew 16:21-22a From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him...

RECEIVING THE REVELATION & CORRECTION OF GOD:

2. We must be careful not to _____ when we don't _____.
- a. Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"
- b. Proverbs 1:5, 7 (NKJV) 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

RECEIVING THE REVELATION & CORRECTION OF GOD:

3. Understanding comes through being _____ of the _____ of God.
- a. Matthew 16:23 But (Jesus) turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- b. Colossians 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
- c. Proverbs 2:2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding.

RECEIVING THE INSTRUCTION OF GOD:

1. Where is your _____ you?
- a. Matthew 16:24a Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me...
 - i. DESIRE means to long for or hope for. Our conscience impulse.
- b. Revelation 2:4-5 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.
- c. Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.
- d. Psalm 37:4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

RECEIVING THE INSTRUCTION OF GOD:

2. Jesus asked that we _____ our _____ standpoint.
 - a. Matthew 16:24b Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself..."
 - b. Matthew 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
 - c. Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

RECEIVING THE INSTRUCTION OF GOD:

3. Jesus asked that we live in _____ by making our life _____.
 - a. Matthew 16:24c Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
 - b. Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - c. We must put our _____ on _____ before God.
 - d. Jesus gives us the instruction to move from being a _____ Christian to being a _____ Christian.

Conclusion:

In light of our text today, we should consider whether we avoid taking up our cross because we fear the pain it will cause us. Or whether we are more focused on satisfying our human desires than a life of denying self that Jesus commands.

Know this: To avoid the cross is to declare war on our own souls.

Reflection:

1. It seems our struggle is truly understanding what Jesus is asking of us. We keep wanting it to be our way, so we try to make these words of Jesus fit our life. And there it is: our problem.
2. The only fix is to really pick up our self-will and wants and carry them as our cross, to put those desires to death and resurrect a deep desire to follow Jesus!