

Do You Really Want to Follow Jesus? **Matthew 16:24-26**

The desire to follow Jesus:

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV) 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.

1. If you want to follow Jesus, you will deny yourself.

Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

2. If you want to follow Jesus, you will daily take up your cross.

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Luke 9:23 (ESV) And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

3. If you want to follow Jesus, you will devote yourself to what Jesus is devoted to.

Matthew 16:24 (ESV) Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

John 20:21 (ESV) Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

What is Jesus devoted to?

A. To serve

Matthew 20:28 (ESV) even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

B. To save the lost.

Luke 19:10 (ESV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

C. To bring real life.

John 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Matthew 4:19 (ESV) And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”