

Matthew 16

Jesus

I. Leaven of the Pharisees/Sadducees

1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and **testing Him** asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. 2 [Jesus] answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' **Hypocrites!** You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the **signs of the times**. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

Test/Tempt Him. Show us a sign. Do a trick for us...

Matthew 12:39 [Earlier] An evil and adulterous generation **seeks after a sign...**

- **Signs are not bad in themselves:** Jesus did signs that pointed to Him as Messiah

John 2:11 [Water to wine] This **beginning of signs Jesus** did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

John 6:2 ...a great multitude followed Him, because they **saw His signs** which He performed on those who were diseased.

John 20:30 And truly Jesus did **many other signs** in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

- So, why is it wrong for Religious Leaders to ask for a sign?
- Jesus said to the devil after tempting Him to jump off Temple...

Matthew 4:7 "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'

- So...Guess who is speaking through the religious leaders? Satan once again...
 1. Tempting Jesus to act apart from the Father's will
 2. Tempting Jesus to prove something to them when He has nothing to prove
- **Hypocrites:**
 1. Figure out the weather by looking at the sky but say you...
 2. **Can't figure out who I am:** Healings, deliverance demon's, feeding thousands

Show us a sign

If you can take Me down to your level/create a god in your image, a god you could manipulate/eventually kill...then you could convince yourself there is no need to follow/obey Me. **I'll see you on the third day...** [NJC]

4b... And [Jesus] left them and departed.

- **No pleasing insincere seekers...** Jesus did not attempt to and neither will we

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "**Take heed and beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread." 8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, **why do you reason** among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 **Do you not yet understand**, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you **do not understand** that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the **Pharisees** and Sadducees.

Take heed/beware of Leaven of the Pharisees interpreted "**We forgot the bread**"

- **Teachers desire:** That students begin to "get it"
 1. Do you not yet understand?
 2. How is it that you do not understand?

What is more important/taking priority in mind/heart over the understanding of God's Word
Jesus would not ask why they **did not** understand...if they **could not** have understood

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you **ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

- **Discipleship Classes:** Learning what is true to reveal what is false
 1. **Leaven of Pharisees:** Legalism, Cults and ism's
 2. **Leaven of the Sadducees:** Licentiousness, worldliness
- **Understanding the Word of God takes work...**

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself **approved to God, a worker** who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. [Know the difference between Truth/False-teaching] 16 ... shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And **their message will spread like cancer**. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort [called out by name]

Beware of False-Teaching: Spread like yeast through corruption of the Word

2 Peter 2:1 [True prophets moved by Holy Spirit in OT...] But there were also false

prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

SUMMARY Leaven of the Pharisees/Sadducees

- Beware of False-Teaching of Religious Leaders. **Distort...**

1. **Work** of Jesus
2. **Person** of Jesus

II. Christ and Son of God

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴ So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

- **Jesus/Disciples:** Cross Jordan head **NE to Caesarea Philippi**
- **Jesus declares...**

The Foundation of My Church will be built on these Two Rock Solid Truths
I am the Christ...I AM the Son of the Living God

- **These Two Truths** determine a true church from a cult/false-religion...
1. **Work of Jesus** He is the Christ Jesus plus nothing is Salvation.
 2. **Person of Jesus** He is Son of God God in human flesh. Jesus is God

1. You are the Christ...

- Need for the Christ began at the fall of man
- **Adam/Sin:** God provides covering ... **First Sacrifice**

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.... ²¹ for Adam and his wife the Lord God **made tunics of skin, and clothed them.**

- God Himself clothed Adam/Eve w/skin of animal to cover their sin

Hebrews 9:22 ... and **without shedding of blood** there is no remission [forgiveness of sin].

Psalms 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, **Whose sin is covered.**

- Animal sacrifices **covered** man's sin for thousands of years
- Looked forward to perfect sacrifice provide by God to **take away our sin**

**Sacrifice had to be of the same kind as the sinner...yet perfect
Not an unblemished animal...but a Perfect Man**

Hebrews 10:3... in those sacrifices there is a **reminder of sins every year**. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, **But a body** You have prepared for Me.

- God the Father prepared a body for the Eternal Son to be sacrificed...

Luke 2:11 ... there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ the Lord**.

- **Requirement for Christ from birth:** Perfect/sinless

Genesis 22:7 [God tells Abe to sacrifice his only son, Isaac says...] "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God **will provide for Himself** the lamb for a burnt offering."

- God stopped Abraham from killing his son/Provided a ram/Substitute instead
- Abe knew he/his son were coming down together. Abe said to his servants on way up...

Genesis 22:5 "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and **we will come back to you.**"

- **Abraham believed God's promise...**even if Isaac died, he would live again!

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was **able to raise him up**, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

- Abraham called Mt. Moriah [place of sacrifice] **God-Will-Provide** v 14
- **2060** Years later on Mt. Moriah God would provide the Perfect Sacrifice for our sin
- **Substitute for the payment of our sin...**

...The Father's only Son would be the Christ and take our place on the cross

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord [Father] to bruise Him [Son]; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin...

- Only the sinless Son of God could be the Christ/Take away our sins forever

John 1:29 [John of Jesus] "Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes away** the sin of the world!"

Psalms 103:12 As far as the **east is from the west**, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place **once for all**, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of

Jesus Christ **once for all.**

- Sacrifice accepted by the Father as **proven through resurrection**

Acts 2:23 [Jesus] being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was **not possible that He should be held by it.**

- **Death is the result of sin.** Eat and you will surely die. Jesus did not sin therefore...
 1. Death could not hold Him...
 2. Sacrifice for our sin accepted Father. Our sin was taken away, **therefore...**
 3. We also will rise again. We say as Abe... God will provide/**God did provide**

John 19:30 [Jesus last moments on cross] **"It is finished!"**

- All that is needed for Salvation has been accomplished
- On these Words I will build my Church...

You are the Christ...

- **Attack by enemies of God on work of Jesus?**
- **It is not finished...**Jesus plus out own good deeds equals Salvation. **Blasphemy**
 1. These rules must be followed
 2. This group must be joined
 3. This ritual must be followed
 4. This day must be observed

Eternal consequences for getting the work of the Christ wrong. Adding anything to His cross with regard to payment for salvation **nullifies the cross** and you are not saved. Eternal formula for Salvation never changes...Jesus plus nothing equals Salvation. We put all our faith in the finished work of the Christ on the Cross...[NJC]

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

A True Church is built on this Statement containing Two Truths Jesus is the Christ...Jesus Son of the Living God

- **These Two Truths** determine a true church from a cult/false-religion...

1. Work of Jesus	He is the Christ	Jesus plus nothing is Salvation.
2. Person of Jesus	He is Son of God	God in human flesh. Jesus is God
- Our Savior is **also our God...**

Isaiah 45:21b... And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. [Context YHWH]

- 1. You are the Christ...

2. You are the Son of the Living God

- All/most cults/false-religions will admit Jesus is the son of God
- **What do they mean** by that and what does it actually mean?

They say Jesus is a son of God like we are sons of God...is that True

- **We are called sons of God...**

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be **called sons of God.**

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God.**

Galatians 3:26 For you are all **sons of God** through faith in Christ Jesus.

- Are we sons of God in the same way Jesus is the Son of God? Absolutely not.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the **adoption as sons.**

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons

- **Adopted sons**/daughters of God with all privileges of son/daughter

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God

- **Begotten:** Single of its kind. He is the only Son of God like Him
- **God has a Son.** What does that mean?

Proverbs 30:2 Surely I am more stupid than any man, And do not have the understanding of a man. 3 I neither learned wisdom Nor have knowledge of the Holy One. [So I have questions...] 4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name,** If you know? 5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. 6 **Do not add to His words,** Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

- **Trinity:** One God revealed in Three Persons; i.e. Father/Son/Holy Spirit
- **Jesus the Son of God:** One with the Father/Apprehend yet not fully comprehend

Born of a virgin girl and conceived by God the Holy Spirit...

Luke 1:35 ...the angel answered and said to [Mary], "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the **Son of God.**

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|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| ▪ Son of man | Born of Mary. | Jesus is man. |
| ▪ Son of God | Born of God's Spirit. | Jesus is God. |

But Jesus was the Son of God before Bethlehem. Always been Son of God

- **Son of God:** Always existed but revealed to world by the incarnation 2000 yrs. ago

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem... Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, **From everlasting.**"

- Always existed with His Father now made manifest at incarnation through Mary

Nowhere in Scripture is it said/implied Jesus was created by the Father
Jesus has always been and never has not been

- **From everlasting:** Only One can say that...**God**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God...** **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the **only begotten** of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The Word [Jesus] existed before He became flesh

John 11:27 [Martha to Jesus], "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, **who is to come into the world.**"

- Always existed now come into the world
- **Jesus shines** the Glory of God the Father...

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds**; 3 who being the brightness of His [Father's] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins , sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

- Jesus shares the heart of the Father

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is **in the bosom** of the Father, He has declared Him. [Bosom of Father. God]

- Son shares the heart of the Father...

Jesus is the Son of the Living God

- Most important question asked and answered...**Who is Jesus?**
- I respect all Religion. Really? Blasphemy

1. Created being
2. Angel
3. Brother of Lucifer
4. Good teacher
5. Michael the Arch Angel
6. Baby/weakling unable to help Himself?
7. Said some good things like others....

- Peter rebuked by Father after equating Moses/Elijah with Jesus Ch. 17
- To say Jesus is less than God the Father is to **dishonor the Father...**

John 5:22 [God the Father...] has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should

honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son **does not honor the Father** who sent Him.

- God Himself felt the pain of Jesus taking the sin of the world in His body...

2 Corinthians 5:19 ... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...

If your Jesus is not God you have the wrong Jesus and one that cannot save you

2 Corinthians 11:4 [If someone...] preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- All cults, ism's, and false-religions
 1. **Jesus plus good works:** Then He is not the Christ
 2. **Jesus that is less than God:** Then He is not God
- **God the Father calls Jesus God...**

Hebrews 1:8 ... to the Son [the Father] says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

- **Religious Jews:** Knew Jesus claiming to be God calling Himself God's Son

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, **making Himself equal with God**

- **Notice above:** Writer John says Jesus made Himself equal to God.

John 10:33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

John 19:7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He **made Himself the Son of God.**"

- **Q.** How important is believing Jesus is God?
- **A.** Eternally Important...

Moses: Q. What is your Name? **A.** I AM that I AM

John 8:24 ... I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins."

¹⁵ [Jesus] said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

My Father revealed Who I AM to you Peter

- **Jesus is revealed** as the Father wills

John 6:44 [Jesus] No one can come to Me **unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up at the last day.

- **The Father is revealed** as Jesus wills

Matthew 11:27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

- No one knows Me or My Father unless we choose to reveal ourselves to them
- **God is supernaturally revealed** to the humble...poor of spirit

Luke 10:21 ... I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and **revealed them to babes.**

- To know Jesus **is to know** the Father

John 14:7 If you had known Me, you **would have known My Father also;** and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. 8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- **Promise to those who believe:** Church/Bride of Christ the Son of God
 1. **Gates of Hades now closed:** Sin taken away thus Death will not prevail.
 2. **Gates of Heaven now open:** Rise with Jesus to Eternal Life in Heaven.

Hebrews 4:16 [Jesus gave us access to the Father...] Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

- Must be revealed to each person supernaturally by God

Jesus is the Christ...Jesus is the Son of the Living God

- **These Two Truths** are the foundation of a true church/true believer...
 1. **Work of Jesus** He is the Christ Jesus plus **nothing** is Salvation
 2. **Person of Jesus** He is Son of God God in human flesh. **Jesus is God**

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

"You are the Christ...You are the Son of the Living God"

III. Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

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.

- **From that time:** Jesus drove home 4 points...
 1. *Must* go to Jerusalem
 2. *Must* suffer wrath/humiliation of Religious Leaders
 3. *Must* be killed
 4. *Must* be raised on Third Day

Are these events Predestined by God...or a series of Choices determined by men? **Yes.**
God uses His foreknowledge of man's freewill to choose **for His purpose...**

Acts 22:23 [Jesus] ... being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- **Q.** Did God force men to crucify Jesus. **A.** No
- **Q.** Did God know men would crucify Jesus. **Q.** Yes
- Q.** Did God use His foreknowledge of man's choice for His determined purpose
A. Absolutely
- Thus, Jesus knew exactly what would happen if He went to Jerusalem...
 1. Whipped, beaten, beard pulled out
 2. Crucified/Die/Buried
 3. He would rise on Third Day! **This is what He was born to do...**

John 12:27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But **for this purpose I came to this hour.**

- **Purpose:** Set us free from sin, death, hell and **bondage to the devil**

1 John 3:8b... For **this purpose** the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy** the works of the devil.

- Plan of Salvation in place **before world began**

Revelation 13:8b [Jesus is...] the **Lamb slain from the foundation** of the world.

- No time in eternity [only here so we don't get to work late]

1 Peter 1:19 [We are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ....] as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained **before the foundation** of the world, but was manifest [made known] in these last times for you 21 who through Him

believe in God, who **raised Him from the dead** and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- **Before all things the Triune God had the plan in place...**

1. He would create man in His image
2. Man would sin propagate now in **image of Adam**
3. Man would need a Savior/ Last Adam Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 15:45 ... "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**.

- **Jesus had to accept the plan:** Leave Glory for humiliation and back to Glory

Isaiah 50: 5 The Lord God has **opened My ear**; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from **shame and spitting**. 7 "For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have **set My face like a flint**, And I know that I will not be ashamed. 8 He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary?

Jesus is fulfilling the Eternal Plan of our Salvation

The plan the Father, Son and Spirit foreordained before the foundation of the world

- **I'm going to the cross...**

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."

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words **sin is not lacking**, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

- Peter wants to strike while the irons hot...

"You are the Christ/Son of the Living God"

v 17b [5 verses earlier...] "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but **My Father who is in heaven**.

- **Here:** Get behind Me Satan

You don't have to suffer and die...words of Satan

Luke 4: 5 Then the devil, [took Jesus] up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, **all will be Yours** [without going to the cross for them] ." 8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

- **Temptation:** You don't have to suffer and go to the cross for them
- **Result if Jesus fell:** Peter and entire human race damned to hell forever
- **Same Temptation throughout His life...**

1. Tempted by Mary/family to stop the "nonsense"
2. Tempted by the Devil to skip the cross
3. Tempted by Peter to forsake the plan...

Q. Was this a powerful temptation? A. More than we can ever imagine. Jesus knew what was coming. He saw men hanging/suffering/dying on crosses as He knew He would. He knew He would be completely alone/taking on our sin/sins of humanity in His own body. [NJC]

1 Peter 2:24 [Peter later understood] [Jesus...] who Himself **bore our sins in His own body** on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

**You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God
...but the things of men.**

- **We are an offence to God when we...**
 1. Give worldly counsel flippantly
 2. Condone sin to justify our own
- **Application:** Tempting others to take the easy way...
 1. Everybody cheats on taxes...don't worry about it
 2. It's okay to live together/have sex before marriage
 3. It doesn't matter who you "love"
 4. Its okay to believe what is false as long as you are sincere
 5. Its your choice if that baby lives/dies
 6. Don't worry about things like truth, what's right, what your Creator says
- **You are an offence to Me...**Mindful of the things of men not God
 1. God says no. Says what He means/means what He says
 2. God says it will lead to pain on earth. Physical, Mental Emotional, Spiritual
 3. God says will lead to eternal judgment
 4. God says it will lead to death...**so why are we telling others it's okay?**

Romans 1:2 [People do this...] knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also **approve of those who practice them.**

**Compromisers tell others it's okay to compromise to justify their own sin
Things of man/Ways of the flesh lead to misery every time**

John 6:63 It is the Spirit **who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak

to you are spirit, and they are life.

- Speak words of Life to others. Fear God and not man.

SUMMARY Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection

IV. Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

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.

- **Do you desire to follow Jesus?**

1. Deny Self
2. Take up Cross

Denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial when, for a good purpose, we occasionally give up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will. [Wiersbe]

- **JOY:** Jesus/Others/You

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem **others better than himself**. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the **interests of others**.

- No suffering/No glory...

1 Peter 4:13 ... rejoice to the extent that you partake of **Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with **exceeding joy**.

Acts 20:24 [Chains and tribulations await me] But none of these things move me; **nor do I count my life dear to myself**, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

- The way of life begins w/ dying to the self-life...

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- **We must Die in order to Live...**

You don't lose a seed when you plant it, though it seems dead and buried. Instead, you **set the seed free** to be what it was always intended to be. [Guzik]

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?

Is there life after death? Most would say yes
Logical to understand you can't take anything with you

- **Judgment is real and Judgment is coming...**

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

When Jesus comes in His glory, He is coming to judge the earth

- Those who deny self and live for Jesus storing treasure in Heaven
- Those who focus on self and live for self-gain...store up wrath for eternity...

Romans 2:5 ...in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds": 7 **eternal life** to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are **self-seeking** and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil... 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 **For there is no partiality with God.**

What will the rat-race benefit at judgment? Keeping up w/Jones'? Fighting for inheritance?

- **No partiality/favorites at Judgement**

1. Money won't help
2. Stuff won't help
3. Good looks won't do it
4. Status won't work
5. Number of friends/likes on FB. Nope. **After living for self...**

...What will you offer to God in exchange for your soul **if not the Blood of Jesus?**

- Jesus is coming to this earth in the glory of His Father w/His angels...

28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Some of you listening will see Me come into My Kingdom before you die!
Did any see Jesus come in His kingdom? Failed prophesy?

SUMMARY Take Up the Cross and Follow Him