

Sermon Guide



The Gospel for Peter June 19th, 2022

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say 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 replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.'"

Matthew 16:13-28

In this Sunday's teaching, RD shared the 5 C's of Matthew 16:13-27: the confession, the cross, the call out, the cost, and the crown. He shared that we often believe, like Peter, that we know the best plan for our lives and the lives of others. Yet, God wants to pour out His mercy and His resurrection power. This often comes through embracing the cross.

As you read through this week's passage, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He illuminates Scripture and sheds light into our hearts. Then, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the questions below.

- RD expounded on a powerful metaphor from scripture: we are like the Israelites, led out of Egypt, but we must get Egypt out of us. We often want to go back to the old, comfortable life, while God chooses the longer, more arduous way to our deep formation. What is an example of a way your life took a turn you did not expect but led you to a deeper walk with Him?
- RD said that you cannot be Christ centered without being cross centered. Yet, the enemy is always on the attack, trying to convince us that we should not have to suffer. In verse 22, the enemy spoke through Peter to try to refute Jesus' mission. RD said a better rendering of the verse is, "God is merciful to You, Lord. This shall never happen to you." In what ways have you heard the enemy speak similar lies when you suffer?
- Culture tells people to be true to themselves to find life. Jesus promises something different: if you lose your life, you will find it. In what ways have you seen your true self, as God created you to be, come alive as you follow Jesus?
- Peter tried to protect Jesus and protect himself rather than accept that Jesus would die by crucifixion. In a similar way, we often miss what God would do if we would only trust Him amidst suffering. He wants to extend mercy. The cross provided a way for mercy to pour out on the world. Are there specific circumstances in your life that you need to "trust Him and keep walking" rather than think you know best?
- In a similar vein, God asks us to suffer not simply for the sake of suffering but instead to be vessels of His goodness in a broken world. Jesus suffered to do God's good and perfect will. In your heart of hearts, how do you view suffering? (Do you view it as mercy? As cruelty? As meaningless?)

At Fellowship, we often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?