

# Discipleship

## *How To Follow Jesus Christ* *Matthew 16:24-28*

**Introduction:** How long have you been \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ?

I came to Christ at the age of 17 (November 14, 1976) and have been walking with Him for 48 years! Following Jesus has been the most thrilling journey of my life, though not free of challenges. Yet, He has never forsaken me.

Following Jesus Christ is a call to \_\_\_\_\_. It requires radical surrender, just as in stories where someone pledges lifelong service to their rescuer.

A.W. Tozer said, *"The reason why many are still troubled... is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves."*

As we study Matthew 16:24-28, we will explore what it means to be a true disciple of Christ.

### **1. \_\_\_\_\_ Yourself (Matthew 16:24)**

*"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Jesus calls us to choose between two ways of living:

1. Pretending to follow Christ while actually living for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Surrendering completely to Jesus Christ.

J.C. Ryle reminds us: *"The flesh must be crucified daily..."*

Three decisions we must make daily:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ self – Self must be placed last.
2. Take up our \_\_\_\_\_ – Die to self and lift Christ high.
3. Follow \_\_\_\_\_ – Imitate Christ's example.

Ways to apply this:

- Inspect your heart daily (Proverbs 4:23).
- Pray for strength to resist things that hinder your walk with Christ.
- Practice self-discipline under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Spurgeon said, *"Denial of self is not loss but gain—an exchange of temporal for eternal."*

## **2. \_\_\_\_\_ Your Life (Matthew 16:25)**

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

The word "life" (Greek: psuche) refers to our \_\_\_\_\_, including dreams and goals.

David Platt explains, *"Live for yourself, and you will die. Die to yourself, and you will live."*

To truly find life, we must:

- Acknowledge areas of \_\_\_\_\_ and give them to God.

- Commit our dreams, goals, ambitions, and relationships to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Look back and see how surrendering to Christ has deepened our faith.

Jim Elliot said, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*

Losing our lives for Christ is the path to eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ the Price (Matthew 16:26)

*“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”*

Many chase success at the cost of what truly matters. One man admitted, *“I climbed the ladder of success only to discover it was on the wrong wall.”*

To keep what is eternal:

- Reassess your \_\_\_\_\_. Are you pursuing temporary gains at the cost of eternal rewards?
- Align daily decisions with spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
- Invest in God’s kingdom (Randy Alcorn: *“You can’t take it with you, but you can send it ahead.”*)

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ’s Return (Matthew 16:27)

*“For the Son of Man will come... and then He will reward each according to his works.”*

Jesus will return in \_\_\_\_\_ and reward His followers.

Paul reminds us (Ephesians 2:10): *“We are His workmanship, created for good works...”*

How to live in anticipation:

- Focus on eternity and leave the \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.
- Serve others selflessly, knowing your labor is not in vain.
- Reflect on God's faithfulness to inspire greater faithfulness.

C.S. Lewis said, *"Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak."* The reward for following Christ far exceeds any earthly sacrifice.

## 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's Kingdom (Matthew 16:28)

Jesus' words here likely refer to His \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 17:1-8) or the coming of His kingdom.

Warren Wiersbe states, *"This statement was fulfilled within a week on the Mount of Transfiguration."*

Practical application:

- Live with \_\_\_\_\_. Christ's kingdom is both present and future.
- Share the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ's return.
- Experience glimpses of His kingdom through worship, service, and obedience.

**Conclusion:** Discipleship requires \_\_\_\_\_, sacrifice, and service, but its rewards are eternal.

Mark 10:29-30 promises that those who leave everything for Christ will receive a hundredfold in this life—and in the age to come, \_\_\_\_\_ life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, *"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."* Yet in that death, we find true \_\_\_\_\_, joy, and purpose.

The question remains: **Are you ready to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, whatever the cost?**