

Southside Baptist Church  
Wednesday Night Worship – 8-7-24  
Matthew Chapter 16 Part 5  
Deny self and take up your cross.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Jesus began to speak about fulfilling His purpose. Verse 21.
- 2) The heaviness of the moment impacted Peter, and he took Jesus aside. Verse 22
- 3) Jesus responded to Peter, “get thee behind me satan.”
- 4) We were reminded of the battle between the Spirit and the flesh in our thoughts.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We look ahead by reviewing what we have learned thus far.

2. Being a follower of Jesus is not natural. Matthew 16:24-28

a. It is not hard to follow the enemy of God, but it is not natural to follow after God.

- 1) I Corinthians 2:14 – “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God...”
- 2) Remember, Peter spoke as he could see this situation.

b. Verse 24 –

- 1) Jesus has presented a choice to both the disciples and the crowd.
  - a) “If any” –

2) Key words:

- a) “If any man will come” – “come” means to simply go, to follow.
- b) “Let him deny” – “deny” – to forget oneself, to lose sight of oneself and to lose sight of one’s own interests.

- c) “selfishness” – an attitude of being concerned with your own interests above the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

3) The root obstacle is selfishness:

- a) James 3:16 –
- b) Matthew 19:21-22 –
- c) Proverbs 18:1
- d) James 4:3 –
- e) James 3:13-14 –
- f) I Timothy 3:2-4 –

4) Back to verse 24:

- a) “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.”

5) How would you describe what this means?

- a) “Take up his cross” –

- b) This phrase has come to be understood to mean that you do not hesitate to cheerfully and manfully bear persecutions, troubles, distresses – thus recalling the fate of Christ and the spirit in which He encountered it.

c. Verse 25 –

- 1) “Whosoever will...”
- 2) The context implies to me this is a decision for a believer.
- 3) Key word – “save” – to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save physical life.
- 4) Key word – “life” – life, which is lived on earth, but as one who is a new creation in Christ.
- 5) Key word – “lose” – speaks of the sacrifice that is associated with following Jesus.
- 6) Key word – “find” – to get, to obtain.

d. The contrasts continue. Verse 26

- 1) Could it be that some listening were not believers, and they were contemplating the cost of believing in and following Jesus?
- 2) Jesus is trying to get them to see the worth of their soul.
- 3) Look at the verse – “For what is man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul” Or what shall man give in exchange for his soul?”

e. Verse 27 –

- 1) We hear the promise of His return.
  - a) “In the glory of His Father” –
  - b) “With His angels” –
  - c) “He shall reward every man according to his works.”
- 2) “Reward” – to recompense or do justice to.
- 3) “Works” – speaks of a doing, a mode of acting, a deed, act, transaction.

f. Verse 28 –

- 1) To some this has been confusing.

3. Tonight’s Take Away:

- a. To carry the cross in Jesus’ day meant death.