



TITLE: Plus Nothing | JESUS MUST DIE, SO WE CAN LIVE

BIG IDEA: PETER IS US!

ICE BREAKER: Has your legal name been changed? Do you use a shortened version of your name? A Nickname? Why?

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 16:13-28

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[b] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[d] loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Predicts His Death

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[e] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For

the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

OPENING THOUGHTS:

Peter is an excellent example of how most of us live in a relationship with Jesus. We want Jesus to do certain things for us and control how Jesus will be the Lord of our lives. We let thoughts from the enemy get in the way of God's will for us and others. Often needing help to perceive what God is doing and looking for the easy way out instead of realizing that every struggle we face produces perseverance in Christ. Even though Peter thought he knew what was best for Jesus, he Failed often, Lacked faith, Acted out of Anger, and even let the enemy use him to get in the way of God's will. Jesus changes, restores, and redeems Peter and wants to do the same thing for each of us.

MAIN POINTS:

Let Jesus Correct our Understanding

Who do you say Jesus is? v. 13-16

Hearing God or Standing on the Rock? v.17-18

The Keys to the Kingdom v. 19-20

We want the Crown, but not the Cross v.21-23

Let the Cross Transform our lives

A Proposition | Pick up your Cross v.24

A Paradox | Save your life by losing it v.25

A Pair of Questions v. 27-28 | The answer is nothing v.26

Two Prophetic Promises | Payback is coming v.27-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it essential to have a proper understanding of who Jesus is? What's the difference between hearing about Jesus and knowing him personally? Why does Jesus have to die for our sins?
2. Why do we struggle with the idea that we identify with Jesus in suffering? What does Jesus Mean by Profit the World and Forfeit our soul? Why is it important to know that Jesus is coming to earth again?
3. What does it mean to deny yourself?
4. What keeps us from denying ourselves?
5. What does it look like for you to pick up your cross and follow Jesus?

FURTHER STUDY:

CHALLENGE:

The Cost is Worth the Reward

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, help us to experience the kind of transformation that you brought to Peter's life. We know who you are, our Savior and the Lord of our lives. We want to be changed by your Word and to receive the Keys to the Kingdom. Help us know that when we experience trouble in this life, we identify ourselves with you. Please help us to pick up our cross daily and follow you. Giving up our lives and dying to ourselves so we might be made alive in you. The world can offer us nothing, but you show us everything. We receive you and welcome you to come into our lives and make everything right as we surrender to your will; in Jesus' name Amen.