

St. Paul's Notes

CHRIST FOLLOWING

September 5, 2010
Matthew 16:13-27

I. _____ (vs. 21-23)

A. Blurred vision

B. Open eyes (vs.17)

John 14:6

- THE Way ~ “my kingdom is not of this world”
- THE Truth ~ eternal and timeless
- THE Life ~ the cornerstone for all of life
I Peter 2:4-7 / I Corinthians 3:11

II. _____ Savior (vs. 21)

A. Why suffering?

Psalm 34:19 / II Timothy 3:12

B. Why Jesus?

III. _____ Servant(s) (vs. 24-27)

A. living sacrificially that others may simply live

B. binding and loosing (vs. 19)

...who do you say I am?

For Further Thought

Read Matthew 16:13-20. You have had to answer important life questions throughout your life like where am I going to work, or who am I going to marry. But all Christ followers must ultimately answer the most important question ever asked, “Who do you say that I am?” Christianity differs from all other religions in that you are called to follow a person instead of a book or rules, and that person is Jesus!

- Name one important life question you’ve answered well?
- What important question do you have in your life right now?

Read Matthew 16:21-23 and John 14:6. Even though Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah, he didn’t know what that meant. He in fact, like many Christians today, had a blurred vision or incorrect picture of who Jesus was and what it meant to follow him. Jesus is the Savior–Messiah but he is not the institutionalized or plastic Jesus you might use to serve your own agenda, values, or ideas. Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only life, and life and salvation can only be found in him.

- How has your “plastic Jesus” been used in the past to serve your own ideas, prejudices and or values?
- Where do you sometimes seek life other than the true source of life found only in Jesus: (Things, Possessions, Relationships, Power, Substances, etc?) Explain.

Re-read Matthew 16:21, Psalm 34:19, and II Timothy 3:12. The hang up for most Christ followers comes when they realize that Jesus is the Suffering Savior. Following Jesus does not give Christians exemption from suffering. Suffering is the direct result of the accumulating effect of generations of wrong choices. But the good news is that God who gave you the dignity of freedom of choice also takes upon himself the consequences for your wrong choices.

- Where do you see suffering caused by the accumulating consequences of wrong choices in our society today?
- Have you ever suffered for being a Jesus follower? Explain.
- What is the hardest part about following a ‘Suffering Savior’ who might ask you to suffer for him?

Read Matthew 16:24-27. You may not be exempt from suffering but you do have a God full of love and understanding who suffered for you that you might live. And it is in this life giving that Jesus calls you to be a sacrificing servant as well, living sacrificially that others may simply live. Instead of living a vampire lifestyle, living to consume, oblivious to needs of others around you, Jesus calls you to bring life from death, never growing weary of the vital work he has called you to do!

- Where do you need to begin living as a sacrificial servant serving a sacrificial Savior?
- How will you answer Jesus’ question ‘Who do you say I am?’ How will that affect your life today?