

Matthew 16:20-27
The Demands of Discipleship
November 17, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

Craig Lounsbrough: *It's not dying I'm afraid of. It's dying without ever having lived--that's what I'm afraid of.*

John 8:28-30 - Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you'll know that I am He...” As He spoke these words, *many believed in Him*.

John 3:16: "Whoever *believes in Him* shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 8:31 - Then Jesus said to those who believed in Him, "If you hold to My teachings, you're really *My disciples*."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Salvation is free... but discipleship will cost you your life."

The difference between salvation and discipleship.

- **Salvation has to do with how you enter God's family.**
 - **Discipleship has to do with how you grow and develop as God's child.**
 - **Salvation is received by faith alone.**
 - **Discipleship involves work.**
 - **Salvation is a one-time event.**
 - **Discipleship is an on-going process.**
 - **In salvation, you receive Christ as your Savior.**
 - **In discipleship, you follow Him as your Lord.**
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v.20 - Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

v.21 - From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and *suffer* many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be *killed*, and be raised the third day.

v.22 - Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You're an offense to Me, for you're not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Matthew 4:9-10 - Satan said: “I'll give you all this if You'll kneel down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan!”

v.24 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

3 Demands of Discipleship

Demand #1 - Denial

Jesus said: "**Whoever desires to come after Me, let him *deny himself*.**"

Jesus isn't telling you to give up *things*, He's telling you to **give up yourself**.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - You're not your own; you were bought with a price.

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Demand #2 - Death

Jesus: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and *take up his cross.*"

v.25 - For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Luke 9:23 - Take up your cross *daily.*

Paul: "I die daily."

Col. 3 - Put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.

v.26 - "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

The word "soul" in verse 26 is the Greek word psyche--from which we get our English word psychology.

C. S. Lewis: The more we get what we now call "ourselves" out of the way and let [God] take over, the more truly ourselves we become... Give up yourself and you'll find your real self. Lose your life and you'll save it. Submit to death, the death of your ambitions, favorite wishes and the death of your whole body in the end. Submit with every fiber of your being, and you'll find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you haven't given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that hasn't died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you'll find in the long run hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay. But look for Christ and you'll find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.

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Demand #3 - Direction

Jesus: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and *follow Me.*"

You follow Jesus by listening to His commands and living according to His example.

Deny yourself... Take up your cross... And follow Him