

SURRENDER: COME AFTER ME

MATTHEW 16:24–28



BIG IDEA

Following Jesus means surrendering ourselves to His road, trusting that what is lost for Him will be found when He comes in glory.

FOLLOW → LOSE → FIND

FROM MESSAGE 6 TO MESSAGE 7

ὀπίσω μου (opisō mou) — behind Me / after Me

Matthew 16:23: “Get behind Me.” Matthew 16:24: “If anyone wishes to come after Me...”

Jesus has just told Peter where a disciple belongs. Now He tells him what life in that place requires.

I. Jesus defines what it means to follow Him. — Matthew 16:24

DENY YOURSELF → TAKE UP YOUR CROSS → FOLLOW ME

ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν (aparnēsasthō heauton) — let him deny himself

Self-denial is not the denial of **personhood**. It is the denial of self-**lordship**.

To deny myself is to say “no” to myself whenever “self” competes with following Jesus.

What I want is not the authority. What I think makes sense is not the authority. Jesus is.

When what I want collides with what Jesus wants, who moves?

ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ (aratō ton stauron autou) — let him take up his cross

Cross = shame · execution · death. Luke 9:23 adds καθ’ ἡμέραν (kath’ hēmeran) — “daily.”

Christ’s cross accomplishes **redemption**. Our cross-bearing describes the costly path of following the **Redeemer**.

ἀκολουθεῖτω μοι (akolouthēitō moi) — let him follow Me

DENY YOURSELF — surrender self-rule. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS — accept the cost. FOLLOW ME — stay behind Jesus.

A disciple does not ask Jesus to follow the life he has chosen. A disciple surrenders himself to follow the road Jesus chooses.

II. Jesus reveals what is truly gained and lost. — Matthew 16:25–26

SAVE → LOSE

LOSE FOR CHRIST → FIND

ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ (heneken emou) — for My sake

The life surrendered to Christ is the life ultimately found; Jesus does not glorify loss for its own sake.

ψυχή (psychē) — life / soul / self according to context

The same word appears four times: NASB95 has life / life (v.25) and soul / soul (v.26). Luke 9:25 says “loses or forfeits himself.”

You can gain everything around you and still lose you.

τὸν κόσμον ὅλον (ton kosmon holon) — the whole world

PROFIT → GAIN → FORFEIT → EXCHANGE. ἀντάλλαγμα (antallagma) — “exchange; equivalent given in return.”

You can gain everything and still lose everything.

THE WORLD SAYS: SAVE YOURSELF. JESUS SAYS: LOSE YOUR LIFE FOR ME.

Jesus knows how the books close because He is the One who closes them.

NOTES

GLORY IS COMING

III. Jesus promises that glory is coming. — Matthew 16:27–28

NOW → THEN

Peter is calculating according to what happens now. Jesus tells him to calculate according to what happens then.

CROSS NOW → GLORY THEN

ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου (ho huios tou anthrōpou) — the Son of Man

Daniel 7:13–14 is the background for Son of Man · glory · kingdom · dominion. Peter is not wrong to expect glory. He is wrong to reject God's road to it.

Judgment according to **deeds** is not justification by **deeds**. Deeds disclose allegiance; they are not the meritorious ground of justification.

A PREVIEW, NOT THE FULL ARRIVAL

Matthew 16:28 ↓ Matthew 17:1 — “Six days later...” ↓ Matthew 17:2 — Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John.

2 Peter 1:16–18: “eyewitnesses of His majesty.” The Transfiguration previews the coming **kingdom**; it does not exhaust Christ's future coming.

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. When what I want collides with what Jesus wants, who moves?

2. What am I unwilling to lose in order to follow Jesus?

3. Where am I currently tempted to calculate according to what happens now rather than what Jesus promises then?

THE MESSAGE IN ONE VIEW

I. FOLLOW HIM — DENY YOURSELF → TAKE UP YOUR CROSS → FOLLOW ME

II. TRUST HIS ACCOUNTING — SAVE → LOSE · LOSE FOR CHRIST → FIND

III. LOOK TO HIS GLORY — CROSS NOW → GLORY THEN

FOLLOW → LOSE → FIND

A disciple can surrender everything to Jesus because nothing surrendered to Jesus is ultimately lost.

LOOKING AHEAD

Matthew 17:1 — “And six days later...”

NOTES
