

4. Read Matthew 16:21-23. What are the pitfalls and dangers of Peter's way of thinking?

5. Read Matthew 16:24-28. Why does discipleship require denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Jesus?

6. How can we better pursue and encourage each other to pursue something more than what this life alone has to offer?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: Easter 2018

SERMON: "The Problem with the Resurrection"

TEXT: Matthew 16:13-28

DATE: March 31/April 1, 2018

You can't really live _____ unless first you _____.

The lesson Jesus teaches marks a definitive _____ in the gospels and in the life of Jesus and the disciples.

The Lesson at Caesarea Philippi

1. Jesus is the _____, the Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:13-18

Christianity, unlike most religions, requires _____ belief. It's not inherited. You're not born Christian. The Bible says you have to choose it for yourself. And it's not even about choosing a religion; it's about a _____ with God.

2. The Messiah must _____ first, then he'll rise and enter enter his glory.
Matthew 16:21-23

When the Messiah, the Son of the living God, doesn't _____ to Peter's image of the Messiah or Peter's _____ of God's plan, he rebukes the Messiah, the Son of the living God, to his face!

This kind of talk doesn't make God turn away _____ you. But notice what this kind of talk does _____ you.

The temptation Jesus faced was to pursue the glory without the _____.

3. We can't really live _____ unless first we die.
Matthew 16:24-28

There is no _____ here. He states that these are the necessary _____ of being his disciple.

Jesus is explaining that we were made _____.

If you pursue only what this world has to offer—if you put yourself at the _____—you'll meet a dead end and lose your soul.

He doesn't want you to waste your life on lesser _____ than himself and what he offers us.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?
2. Why is the resurrection so important?
3. Why does Jesus say we have to die in order to really live?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Peter understood Jesus' identity as the long-awaited Messiah for Israel, but he misunderstood what being Messiah would mean. Rather than conquering Israel's enemies through violence, Jesus conquered sin, death, and Satan through his suffering on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Christians confess that Jesus is the Messiah, and united to him, we take up our cross and follow where he leads.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 16:13-18. What answers are good but insufficient to Jesus' question concerning his identity?
3. Why is our understanding of who Jesus is so important?

THEOLOGICAL THEME

The church is built upon the confession that Jesus is the Messiah who suffered, died, and rose again.