



Lesson #11: Who is Jesus to You? (Matthew 16:15)

In our text today Jesus gives his disciples the most important exam in the history of the world. The answers to this test are so important that _____ literally weighs in the balance. While examining this text we will see the apex, the high point, of Jesus' endeavor to _____ his disciples. It is their final examination moment. And the final examination of the Lord is either _____ or _____.

For two years our Lord has been moving to this moment, teaching and re-teaching, affirming and re-affirming, building and re-building. Jesus wanted his disciples to get to the point where they had an accurate understanding of who He was and what He expected. He brought them to this point where ultimately Peter, on behalf of all of them, can say, "*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Matthew 16:16). Peter's answer and interaction with Christ in this passage teaches us that **because Jesus is Christ you must radically _____ Him.**

RADICAL CHRIST FOLLOWING STARTS WITH A SINCERE _____ (16:13-20)

In Peter's confession we find two very important factors that must be a part of every radical Christ follower.

A. Peter's confession came as a result of his experiences (16:15)

As a disciple of Jesus, Peter had the unique opportunity to see firsthand the workings of Christ. Consider what Peter had witnessed:

- Peter saw the _____ healed
- Peter heard the _____ on the _____
- Peter saw Christ cast out demons
- Peter saw Matthew called
- Peter saw the _____ rebuked

It was no wonder that Peter would respond, "*You are the Christ!*"

B. Peter's confession resulted in great _____ (16:17-19)

The pattern throughout God's Word is that those He calls he also puts a burden of _____ on. Here Christ says he would build his church. There is no greater demonstration of Christ's _____ than the church.

RADICAL CHRIST FOLLOWING CONTINUES DESPITE

DISSAPPOINTING PERSONAL _____ (16:21-23)

Jesus had just informed Peter in front of all the disciples that he was right on regarding His true identity. In Peter's mind he had just experienced an amazing _____. Peter must have been thinking that Jesus had some "big play" in mind for the near future.

But as Jesus laid out his plan, Peter realized that it would cost Christ his life, and he raised a strong objection. Christ, realizing that Satan was trying to use Peter to thwart the efforts of the cross turns to Peter and says, "*Get thee behind me _____.*"

He would not water down his tone or response to spare Peter's feelings or to protect Peter's pride. Jesus had set His face toward the cross and would not be dissuaded by anyone or anything.

RADICAL CHRIST FOLLOWING REALIZES THAT AN

EXTREME _____ IS INVOLVED (4:24-26)

Following Christ does not come free.

A. You must deny yourself _____

To deny yourself basically means to relinquish all claims to your life. You renounce your right to _____ your life. Christianity is no self-enhancement, self-modification, or even self-suppression. Christianity is self-_____. Since we are designed to worship God and serve other people, a key component of Christ's work must be to unlock us from _____.

B. You must devote yourself _____

As Christ turned to his disciples after his rebuke of Peter, he used a very specific word picture that would evoke particular emotions in his followers "*Take up your _____.*"

This refers to the cross that is suffered because of union with Christ. It speaks of a willingness to identify with Christ in His rejection, shame, suffering, and _____. A cross is an instrument of pain and death. Jesus is saying, "be prepared to _____ for me." Taking up your cross means giving up your life so completely that Jesus' life is able to fill you. It means the old you is dead and the new life you lead is emptied of you-ness and filled with _____-ness.

Concluding Thoughts

Jesus is giving to the disciples the most important test in the history of the world. He wants to see if they are really ready to follow Him _____. The reality is that each of us would probably say we have a desire to be sold out for Christ, but come short of achieving that desire so often it's sickening. We end up putting on the name tag of "Christian," but we don't have a clue what it really means. That's why I love reading of men like _____. He messed up so often, but he was ultimately one of the greatest Christ-followers of all time.