

MATTHEW 16:1-28

PRAY: Thank Jesus for the work He did on the cross and ask for His will—to set your mind on things of Him and lay aside your own will and life to be part of His.

REST: Write a list of the things you have been setting your mind on the past few days—evaluate whether those are of God and set aside any that are not.

READ: Through the section once. Are there any portions that stand out to you—that convict, encourage or confuse you? Read those again and then read the entire chapter a second time.

Consider & Respond to these questions:

What does this chapter show about Jesus? Who does He say that He is?

How are you called to live, speak, and think as a disciple?

How do those play out practically in your day-to-day life? What steps can you take today to live like a follower of Jesus?

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QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:

What does Christianity become if the sacrifice of the cross and the resurrection are removed?

How can you tell the difference between the mind of God and the mind of man? How do you do this practically in your daily life?

What does it look like to deny yourself? Give practical examples.

Christ calls us to purposefully implement the will of God in our lives. Thinking back upon the list from Sunday of what Jesus calls us to (Loving unconditionally, forgiving the unforgivable, etc.), what steps do you need to take this week to implement the mind of Christ in your life?

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

The disciples walked with Jesus, listened to Him teach, and watched Him live. Though they confessed Him as Christ, even they missed what He was doing and had their own agenda for His kingdom. Praise Jesus, who has given us the Holy Spirit to point our minds toward Jesus and to train our minds to be set on the things of God—we need only submit to His work in our hearts and minds. Without the Spirit to transform our hearts, any self-sacrifice and “taking up our cross” will be fruitless legalism, but in Him we will experience true and abundant life.

Mind: Psalm 8:3-4, 19:14, 119:15; Isaiah 26:3-4; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Romans 8:5-8, 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16; 2 Corinthians 10:5-6; Philippians 4:4-8; 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Gain/Reward: Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 19:29-30; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Philippians 1:21, 3:7-11; 1 Timothy 6:6-12; Revelation 22:12-13

Self-denial: Matthew 5:29; Mark 10:21-31; Luke 14:26-33; Romans 6:1-14, 8:10-11, 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Galatians 5:24-25; Philippians 3:8-11; Colossians 3:5

As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:

What does it mean to have your mind set on something? What are we called to set our minds on as disciples? How do we do that?

In the practice of denying yourself, how do you know if you are growing?

How well do your “goals” for God's kingdom match up with His work as described in the Bible and how you see Him at work around you? How can you adjust your perspective?

TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 16:24-25