



SUNDAY CLASS

4/26/09

Key Verses: Matthew 16: 24-28

Matthew 16:24-28 (New International Version)

Christ, having shown his disciples that he must suffer, and that he was ready and willing to suffer, here shows them that they must suffer too, and must be ready and willing. It is a weighty discourse that we have in these verses.

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE



"JESUS CARRYING HIS CROSS"

Matthew 16:24 (New International Version)

***24* Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

"Here is the law of discipleship laid down, and the terms fixed, upon which we may have the honor and benefit of it, v. 24. He said this to his disciples, not only that they might instruct others concerning it, but that by this rule they might examine their own security."

"What it is to be a disciple of Christ; it is to come after him. When Christ called his disciples, this was the word of command, Follow me. **A true disciple of Christ is one that doth follow him in duty, and shall follow him to glory.** He is one that comes after Christ, not

one that prescribes to him, as Peter now undertook to do, forgetting his place. A disciple of Christ comes after him, as the sheep after the shepherd, the servant after his master, the soldiers after their captain; he is one that aims at the same end that Christ aimed at, the glory of God, and the glory of heaven: and one that walks in the same way that he walked in, is led by his Spirit, treads in his steps, submits to his conduct, and follows the Lamb, whithersoever he goes, Rev. 14:4."

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 10:38 (New International Version)

³⁸*and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

Luke 14:27 (New International Version)

²⁷*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

****Note, "It denotes a deliberate choice, and cheerfulness and resolution in that choice."*

****Note, Many are disciples more by chance or the will of others than by any act of their own will; but Christ will have his people volunteers, Ps. 110:3."*

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Psalms 110:3 (New International Version)

³ *Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.*

"Now what are these terms?"

(1.) Let him deny himself.

Peter had advised Christ to spare himself, and would be ready, in the like case, to take the advice; but Christ tells them all, they must be so far from sparing themselves, that they must deny themselves. Herein they must come after Christ, for his birth, and life, and death, were all a continued act of self-denial, a self-emptying, Phil. 2:7, 8. If self-denial be a hard lesson, and against the grain to flesh and blood, it is no more than what our Master learned and practiced before us and for us, both for our redemption and for our instruction; and the servant is not above his lord.

******Note, All the disciples and followers of Jesus Christ must deny themselves.***

It is the fundamental law of admission into Christ's school, and the first and great lesson to be learned in this school, to deny ourselves; it is both the strait gate, and the narrow way; it is necessary in order to our learning all the other good lessons that are there taught. We

must deny ourselves absolutely, we must not admire our own shadow, nor gratify our own humor; we must not lean to our own understanding, nor seek our own things, nor be our own end. We must deny ourselves comparatively; we must deny ourselves for Christ, and his will and glory, and the service of his interest in the world; we must deny ourselves for our brethren, and for their good; and we must deny ourselves for ourselves, deny the appetites of the body for the benefit of the soul.

(2.) Let him take up his cross.

The cross is here put for all sufferings, as men or Christians; providential afflictions, persecutions for righteousness' sake, every trouble that befalls us, either for doing well or for not doing ill. The troubles of Christians are fitly called crosses, in allusion to the death of the cross, which Christ was obedient to; and it should reconcile us to troubles, and take off the terror of them, that they are what we bear in common with Christ, and such as he hath borne before us.

[1.] *Every disciple of Christ hath his cross, and must count upon it; as each hath his special duty to be done, so each hath his special trouble to be borne, and every one feels most from his own burden. Crosses are the common lot of God's children, but of this common lot each hath his particular share. That is our cross which Infinite Wisdom has appointed for us, and a Sovereign Providence has laid on us, as fittest for us. It is good for us to call the cross we are under our own, and entertain it accordingly. We are apt to think we could bear such a one's cross better than our own; but that is best which is, and we ought to make the best of it.*

[2.] *Every disciple of Christ must take up that which the wise God hath made his cross. **It is an allusion to the Roman custom of compelling those that were condemned to be crucified, to carry their cross: when Simon carried Christ's cross after him, this phrase was illustrated.***

*First, It is supposed that the cross lies in our way, and is prepared for us. **We must not make crosses to ourselves, but must accommodate ourselves to those which God has made for us.** Our rule is, not to go a step out of the way of duty, either to meet a cross, or to miss one. **We must not by our rashness and indiscretion pull crosses down upon our own heads, but must take them up when they are laid in our way.** We must so manage an affliction, that it may not be a stumbling-block or hindrance to us in any service we have to do for God. We must take it up out of our way, by getting over the offence of the cross; None of these things move me; and we must then go on with it in our way, though it lie heavy.*

Secondly, That which we have to do, is, not only to bear the cross (that a stock, or a stone, or a stick may do), not only to be silent under it, but we must take up the cross, must improve it to some good advantage. We should not say, "This is an evil, and I must bear it, because I cannot help it;" but, "This is an evil, and I will bear it, because it shall work for

my good." When we rejoice in our afflictions, and glory in them, then we take up the cross. This fitly follows upon denying ourselves; for he that will not deny himself the pleasures of sin, and the advantages of this world for Christ, when it comes to the push, **will never have the heart to take up his cross. (THIS TAKES COURAGE!)**

Revelation 21:8 (Amplified Bible)

⁸But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive, and as for the unbelieving and faithless, and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations, and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practicers of magic arts and the idolaters (those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God) and all liars (those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed)--[all of these shall have] their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death.

*****Note, "He that cannot take up the resolution to live a saint, has a demonstration within himself, that he is never likely to die a martyr;" Archbishop Tillotson.**

(3.) Let him follow me, in this particular of taking up the cross. Suffering saints must look unto Jesus, and take from him both direction and encouragement in suffering. Do we bear the cross? We therein follow Christ, who bears it before us, bears it for us, and so bears it from us. He bore the heavy end of the cross, the end that had the curse upon it, that was a heavy end, and so made the other light and easy for us. Or, we may take it in general, we must follow Christ in all instances of holiness and obedience.

*****Note, The disciples of Christ must study to imitate their Master, and conform themselves in every thing to his example, and continue in well-doing, whatever crosses lie in their way."**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 16:25 (New International Version)

²⁵**For whoever wants to save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.**

Matthew 10:39 (New International Version)

³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

John 12:25 (New International Version)

²⁵The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Matthew 16:26 (New International Version)

²⁶What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

*“***Note, Though many have been losers for Christ, even of life itself, yet never any one was, or will be, a loser by him in the end.”*

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Psalm 49:7-8 (New International Version)

⁷ No man can redeem the life of another, or give to God a ransom for him- ⁸ the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough-

Luke 12:20 (New International Version)

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

“*Note, If once the soul be lost, it is lost for ever. There is no antallagma – counter-price, that can be paid, or will be accepted. It is a loss that can never be repaired, never be retrieved. If, after that great price which Christ laid down to redeem our souls, and to restore us to the possession of them, they be so neglected for the world, that they come to be lost, that new mortgage will never be taken off; there remains no more sacrifice for sins, nor price for souls, but the equity of redemption is eternally precluded. Therefore it is good to be wise in time, and do well for ourselves.”**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

Matthew 16:27 (New International Version)

²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 26:64 (New International Version)

⁶⁴"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Mark 8:38 (New International Version)

³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Acts 1:11 (New International Version)

¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (New International Version)

¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

*****Note, It is a great encouragement to suffering saints to be assured, not only of the safety, but of the advancement of Christ's kingdom among men; not only notwithstanding their sufferings, but by their sufferings.**

***MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (New International Version)

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Revelation 1:7 (New International Version)

⁷Look, he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Matthew 16:28 (New International Version)

²⁸I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

HE IS COMING AGAIN!!!!!!!

Matthew 4:23 (New International Version)

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matthew 10:23 (New International Version)

²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Acts 20:25 (New International Version)

²⁵Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.

Jude 1:14-15 (New International Version)

¹⁴Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

*****Note, The nearer the church's deliverances are, the more cheerful should we be in our sufferings for Christ.**

"Christ saith, Some shall live to see those glorious days, not all; some shall enter into the promised land, but others shall fall in the wilderness. He does not tell them who shall live to see this kingdom, lest if they had known, they should have put off the thoughts of dying, but some of them shall; Behold, the Lord is at hand. The Judge stands before the door; be patient, therefore, brethren."

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