Deny Yourself And Take Up Your Cross And Follow Jesus

John Banning · Matthew 16:24–26

INTRODUCTION

- What will it take to be with Jesus? That's what Jesus is talking about here.
- Jesus tells his disciples exactly what it will take, exactly what it will require to be with him in the end.
- I think every disciple needs to know the answer to that question.

1 He Must Deny Himself

Matthew 16:24; Matthew 26:34; Colossians 1:16

- If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself.
- To deny someone is to say, I'm not connected to you. I'm not interested in you. I'm not invested in you.
- To deny yourself means that I cut all ties to my worldly ambition.
- To deny yourself means to finally come to the realization that my life is not about me.
- All things have been created through him and for him.
- We live in a culture that has deified desire.

2 Take Up His Cross

Romans 6:3–7; Galatians 2:20; Matthew 7:21

- To be with Jesus, you have to be the kind of person that carries crosses.
- To Jesus, the cross is a symbol of sacrifice. It's a symbol of giving yourself up.
- Christians are the kind of people who give stuff up.
- When I got baptized, I made a deal with God. That I would give up whatever it takes to serve him if he would cleanse me of my sins.
- I have been crucified with Christ. And it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.
- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven. But he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter.

3 Follow Me Daily

Luke 9:23; Luke 9:57–62

- I think there's also a good message here about consistency.
- If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- This following Jesus thing is not something that we can just take a break from every once in a while.
- The only way to follow someone is to keep following them.
- No one after putting his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.
- The kingdom of heaven isn't made up of those who started to follow. It's made up of those who always follow.

THE CHALLENGE

To be with Jesus, I have to give all of that back to him. Give him your life. Give him your every movement.

MY NOTES