
SERMON OUTLINE

Following Christ – no matter what!

Matthew 16:21-27; Mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:22-26

(Speaker: Pastor Jim Engelman)

1. Following Christ is based on a right relationship with Christ. Matt. 16:16
 - a. The first step is to receive Him (believe in Him) as our Savior from sin – John 1:10-12; John 3:14-16
 - b. Christ calls us not only to have eternal life but to follow Him and serve Him. Matt. 16:19 – (Peter's ministry role in starting the church) Matt. 28:19

2. God wants our obedience, not our opinion
 - a. Christ confirms to Peter His call on his life – Luke 5:1-10 – Peter becomes a fisher of men.
 - b. God's interests are higher than our interest – Matt. 16:21-23
 - God's interest – humility come before exaltation -- Luke 24:26
 - Man's interest – pride comes before a fall
Peter's denial – Luke 22:31-34
Satan's plan is to deceive us for what looks good.

3. Following Jesus is a choice. Matt. 16:24 – If anyone wishes to come after Me.
 - a. It is following Jesus and obeying Him or we live for self – it cannot be both.
 - b. We are to make a life-time commitment to follow Christ. Rom. 12:1
 - c. We are to daily renew our minds to obey Him. Luke 9:23

4. Following Jesus costs you everything. Matt. 16:25-26 – meaning Christ must be first and foremost in our lives.
 - a. Luke 9:57-62 – homeless; Jesus first; not being distracted
 - b. Luke 14:26 – must "hate" his family & himself
 - c. Luke 14:27 – must carry his cross
 - d. Luke 14:33 – must give up all his own possessions

5. Following Jesus will reap great benefit for you and others. Matt. 16:25-27 – if we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us.
 - a. But whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save (preserve or keep) it. Mark 8:35
 - b. Mark 10:28-31 – Leaving to gain others – for the sake of the gospel.
 - c. Matt. 16:27 – eternal rewards.
 - d. Mark 8:38 – the negative side of not following Jesus