

Pentecost Study 14 Matt16:21-28 Jesus' Future & Discipleship Challenges

21 From then on Jesus^u began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him^u for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your true life?^u Is anything worth more than your life? 27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. 28 And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom."

Q.1. Why did Jesus have to speak 'plainly' to his disciples v.21a?

Q.2. Why was it 'necessary' for Jesus to go to Jerusalem v.21b?

Q.3. Peter confessed that 'Jesus is the Messiah' v.16; would Peter's expectation of 'a Messiah's role' have included 'suffering' and 'being killed' v.21c? If not, what would Peter have expected from a Messiah?

Q.4. In v.22 Peter reprimands Jesus for choosing to go to Jerusalem, suffer and die. What was he missing?

Q.5. What's the temptation for Jesus in Peter's plea? (see Matt 4:1-11) Does this explain why is Jesus' response to Peter so harsh v.23?

Q.6. Jesus told Peter, 'You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's v.23b', what is God's point of view here?

Q.7. How would you explain v.24 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me'? What does 'take up your cross' suggest for Jesus-followers?

Q.8. What does Jesus mean, 'If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it' v.25? (see v.26).

Q.9. How does v.27 tie in with vv.24-26?

Q.10. How does v.28 link with what will happen to Jerusalem in the near future?

Application: for reflection, prayer and action

Q.11. In Peter's shoes what would you have said to Jesus after his words in v.21?

Q.12. How can we combat seeing things in 'merely human ways' v.23?

Q.13. What tempts you to 'hang on to your life' v.25?

Q.14. What behaviour would indicate you are willing to give up your life for Jesus' sake vv.24-25?

Q.15. How does standing before Jesus the Judge and 'giving an account of your deeds' v.27 make you feel?

Matt 16:21-28 (my suggested answers)

NB. Please answer the questions yourself. We all have different ways of answering; God may give you greater insights than mine. Put '*John thinks*' ... before each answer.

A.1. Up till then he had spoken in parables and strange ideas. Now he must speak more clearly and plainly because they need to be aware of his upcoming plans.

A.2. Going to Jerusalem was his vocation in God's saving plans.

A.3. For Peter the Messiah was a conquering hero, a charismatic leader, a greater king-David type who will rescue Israel, renew their worship and remove all corrupt religious or political rulers.

A.4. Peter missed the greater vocation of the Messiah – to die in victory over humanity's great enemies: sin, death and Satan.

A.5. The temptation in Peter's plea is the same as Satan's in Matt 4 – the offer of the kingdom without the cross. But it is really no victory because to greatest enemies would remain in play.

A.6. God point of view is for Jesus to die & rise again in victory, see A.4.

A.7. Taking up one's cross is a 'totally sacrifice or surrender metaphor', indicating a person's willingness to live fully (or even die) for Jesus.

A.8. This age has great power to allure us with false security (money or family or fun) if we get caught in these we are unlikely to love God nor love our neighbours

A.9. V.27 ties in to vv.24-26 as the final proof of our commitment to Jesus' way – we will have to give an account of our behaviour.

A.10. V.28. is directed toward the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD. Some alive then will see it happen (as a 'coming' of Jesus to judge)

A.11. your words

A.12. Humble living, daily saying our prayers, reading the Scriptures, worship & service, listening to godly friends or family ...

A.13. Your answer

A.14. Your answer – see A.12.

A.15. Your answer.