



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Jesus changes lives

## STAND ALONE



### *Matthew 16:21-27 - The Cost*

**Matthew 16:26** : *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?*

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#### NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept**
  - Lunch provided.
- **Church Working Bee on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept**
  - Starting time 8am
  - It's spring cleaning time. Many hands make light work!



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## MATTHEW 16:21-27 - THE COST

### REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

### DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

#### Matthew 16:21-27

##### Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

##### Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

### APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **Read Matthew 16:21-23**
  - a. What had Jesus just revealed to be his ultimate purpose in coming?



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- b. What was it that Peter had got so wrong? Why was his statement, in Jesus eyes, of a satanic origin?
- c. In what ways do you, like Peter, hold onto your own human understanding of things? Where do we have to submit ourselves to what God has revealed to us?

**3. Read Matthew 16:24-27**

- a. How can someone lose their life trying to save it or gain it by giving it away? What on earth is Jesus getting at here?
- b. The metaphor Jesus chooses for the Christian life is one of execution. Why? What can we learn from this?
- c. What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Christ?
- d. What does it mean for you?
- e. Missionary Jim Elliot is famously quoted as saying, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

## PRAY

Pray that we would understand more fully God's grace towards us, and that we would let go of the things of this world that we hold onto instead of following God.

## NOTES:

**16:21–28:20** *The Road to the Cross and the Resurrection.* Jesus now begins to travel under the shadow of the cross but with resurrection hope on the other side.

**16:21–17:27** *Preparation for the Passion.* Jesus teaches about his need to die at the hands of the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem (16:21–28; 17:22–23; 20:17–20). Yet to sustain his disciples, his transfiguration (17:1–13) and further miracle-working ministry (17:14–21, 24–27) give them glimpses of his glory to sustain them through the dark days.

**16:21–28** When Jesus predicts his coming death, Peter rebukes him (v. 22). But Jesus explains not only that *he* must suffer but that anyone who would *follow* him must suffer too. Nevertheless, resurrection follows crucifixion.

**16:21** **From that time on Jesus began to.** Again this signals a new major section in Matthew (cf. 4:17; see note there). **he must ... suffer ... be killed ... be raised to life.** This assertion by Jesus was contrary to virtually all Jewish expectation, yet it was in accordance with the OT (see especially Isa 52:13–53:12). **the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law.** The three main groups of temple authorities in Jerusalem who oppose Jesus (see also 17:22–23; 20:17–19).

**16:22** **never happen.** Peter still has a triumphant, conquering Messiah in mind.

**16:23** **Get behind me, Satan.** Jesus is not claiming that Peter is demon-possessed but that his rejection of the way of the cross reflects the attitude of Satan. **Get behind me.** Means "Get away from me." Peter, the "rock" (v. 18), has quickly become a "stumbling block."



**16:26 What good will it be ...?** All the material possessions and privilege in this world cannot compensate for spending an eternity in hell. Nor can any human offer anything to God to redeem themselves. Eternal life must be received as God's free gift. But this context reminds people that it may cost them their lives.

**16:27 come ... and then.** Jesus himself will return after his death, resurrection, and ascension. Unlike his coming as a baby in humiliation, this time he will appear "in his Father's glory" to judge all humanity.<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- NIV Study Bible, Zondervan.

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, D. A. (2015). [The Gospels and Acts](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (pp. 1965–1966). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.