

In the Hot Seat with Jesus

Questions Jesus Asked

What Will it Profit a Man to Gain the Whole World and Lose His Soul?

Matthew 16:21-27

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Sept. 25, 2011

“Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim... Religion in our time has been captured by the tourist mindset. Religion is understood as a visit to an attractive site to be made when we have adequate leisure. For some it is a weekly jaunt to church... Some, with a bent for religious entertainment and sacred diversion, plan their lives around special events like retreats, rallies and conferences. We go to see a new personality, to hear a new truth, to get a new experience and so, somehow, expand our otherwise humdrum lives.” *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction - Discipleship in an Instant Society*, Eugene H. Peterson, pg 11,12

I. Do You Celebrate Who Christ Is and What He Came to Do?

Matthew 16:21

Jesus didn't come to set up an earthly kingdom...He came to solve our biggest problem... our sin problem that separates us from a holy God.

There's no Christianity without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the basic foundation of all that we believe and worship.

Matthew 16:23

"Of all the elements of Christianity, the most repugnant is the notion of the Christ who took our sins upon himself and sacrificed his body in agony to save our souls." **Polly Toynbee**

"Although the link between grace and sin has driven Christianity for centuries, it just doesn't resonate in our culture anymore. It repulses rather than attracts. People are becoming much less inclined to acknowledge themselves as 'sinners in need of a Savior.' [A better approach is to see Jesus as]... the model of sinless living, the ultimate example to which all humanity should aspire." Spencer Burke, *A Heretic's Guide*, p. 130-31. Quoted in *Why We're Not Emergent*, Kevin DeYoung & Ted Kluck, pg. 120

II. Do You Live for Something Bigger than You?

Matthew 16:24

Luke 9:23 “And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Apart from a work of grace in our lives... we're consumed with ourselves. So that's what sets Christians radically apart. We no longer live for ourselves.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15, 17 “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

“There was a day when I died, utterly died; died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will – died to the world, its approval or censure – died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends – since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.”
 Roger Steer, "Seeking First the Kingdom," Discipleship Journal, Issue 35 (1985), p.24. As quoted in *Christian Psychology's War on God's Word*, Jim Owen, p. 81 & 82.

III. Have You Radically Altered What You Protect and Pursue?

Before you're a Christian you protect SELF... and you pursue STUFF.

Matthew 16:25–26

In these verses Jesus is not just giving us the qualifications of a real Christian. He's giving us the recipe for *life* as distinct from *existence*.

“He's no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose.”
 -Jim Elliot

IV. Do You Live Like His Promises are True?

Matthew 16:27

- Do you celebrate who Christ is and what He came to do?
- Do you live for anything bigger than you?
- Have you radically altered what you protect and pursue?

2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”