

# Following Suffering Messiah (Matthew 16:21-28)

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Theme Song
- The Cost of Following Jesus (8:18-22) and Radical Discipleship (10:37-39)

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”

(16:24-25)

- Journey to Self-Discovery

- CNN: 'To my 15-year-old self': Things I wish I'd known (International Day of the Girl 10/11)



# Introduction

- 4<sup>th</sup> Narrative (14-17)-Discourse (18)
  - 14:1-16:20 The Identity of Messiah Revealed
    1. 14:1-36 Into the Heart of Jesus
    2. 15:1-39 Hypocrisy and Great Faith
    3. 16:1-20 Peter's Confession of Christ
    4. **16:21-28 Jesus Predicts His Death**
  - 16:21-17:27 **The Suffering of Messiah Revealed**
- Chapter 16: The Turning Point
  - The Great Confession of Christ (16:16)
  - The Cost of Radical Discipleship (16:24)

# Divine Necessity of Suffering (21-23)

- “From that time on Jesus began . . .” (21a; 4:17a)
- Great Contrast of Peter (16-19 vs. 22-23)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prediction Of Messiah’s Suffering, Death and Resurrection with four “must” (21)
  1. Go to Jerusalem
  2. Suffer many things from the leadership
  3. Be killed
  4. Be raised to life on the third day
- Peter’s Resistance to Things of God (22)
- Jesus’ Rebuke on Peter: Satan, Stumbling block, Things of Men (23)

# Radical Discipleship (24)

- “If anyone would come after” Jesus (24a)
- The Cost of Discipleship (24)
  - Self-Denial
    - Understanding of Human Self (Good and Evil)
    - Creation and Fall; Redemption
    - Meaning of Self-Denial (Examples of Peter, Paul-Soldier/Athlete/Farmer)
  - Cross-Bearing (Daily)
    - What is to take up My Cross Daily?
    - The Cross of Christ
- Keep on Following Jesus: “Follow Me” (Jn 21:19, 22)

# Why the Way of Cross? (25-28)

- Three Arguments/Reasons
  - “For” (25, 26, 27-28)
    1. Paradoxical Truth of Life (25)
    2. Value of Life/Soul/Self: 2Qs (26)
    3. Messianic Glory and Judgment (27-28)
      - The Cost of Non-Discipleship
      - ❖ Investment of Life (Radical Risk/Reward: Hidden Treasure; 1Jn 2:15-17)

# Applications: Following Jesus

❖ *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* (David Platt)

❖ **How Do You Follow Jesus Today?**

- **Self-Denying or Self-Indulgent**

- **Cross-Bearing or Self-Preserving (Daily)**

- **Keep on Following and Serving Him Every Day?**

➤ **Eternal Life: Knowing God and Christ** (Jn 17:3)

➤ **The Glory of the Kingdom of God** (2Tim 2:7; Jn 12:24; Phil 3; Pursuit of God)