

Think About Points to Ponder and Words to Think About

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What is your soul worth?

Jesus asked the following Questions,(Matt. 16:26)

“What will a man profit if he gains the whole world and lose his soul?”

“What will a person give in exchange for his soul?”

Preceding these words Christ reiterates a statement he has made before telling those who would come after him to deny themselves and take up his cross.(Matthew 16:24)

Christ said, “Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”(Matthew 16:25)

What does this mean to you?

How do we find our life by losing it?

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A Study of Matthew

Matthew 16:1-17:27

Lesson 15

Assignment for next Week — Read Matthew 18:1-35

Memory Verse — Matthew 16:15-16

Who Am I? This is a question that Jesus asked his disciples. Jesus first asked his disciples, “whom do men say that I am” and then he asked them, “Whom do you say that I am.” Today many would call Jesus a great man, a great prophet, and an extraordinary individual, but the question is who do you say that Jesus is? Peter answered this question, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. It was upon this statement that Christ built his church.

Some of the men of Jesus time had trouble believing that Jesus was the Christ because they did not want to believe. As the 16th chapter begins we read about the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to Jesus and asking for a sign. Christ upbraided these people because they could discern the signs of the sky, but they could not discern the signs of the times. Jesus warned his disciples to beware of these people.

After Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, Jesus commanded his disciples that they not tell anyone that he was the Christ. Jesus then went on to explain how that he must suffer and die and be raised again. Peter did not like hearing that his Savior was going to be treated this way and told Christ, “Never will this happen to you.” Christ then scolded Peter very strongly, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a cause for stumbling to me, because you are not thinking about the things of God, but the things of men.” We too need to be careful that we do not let men sway us from doing that which is right. Many times

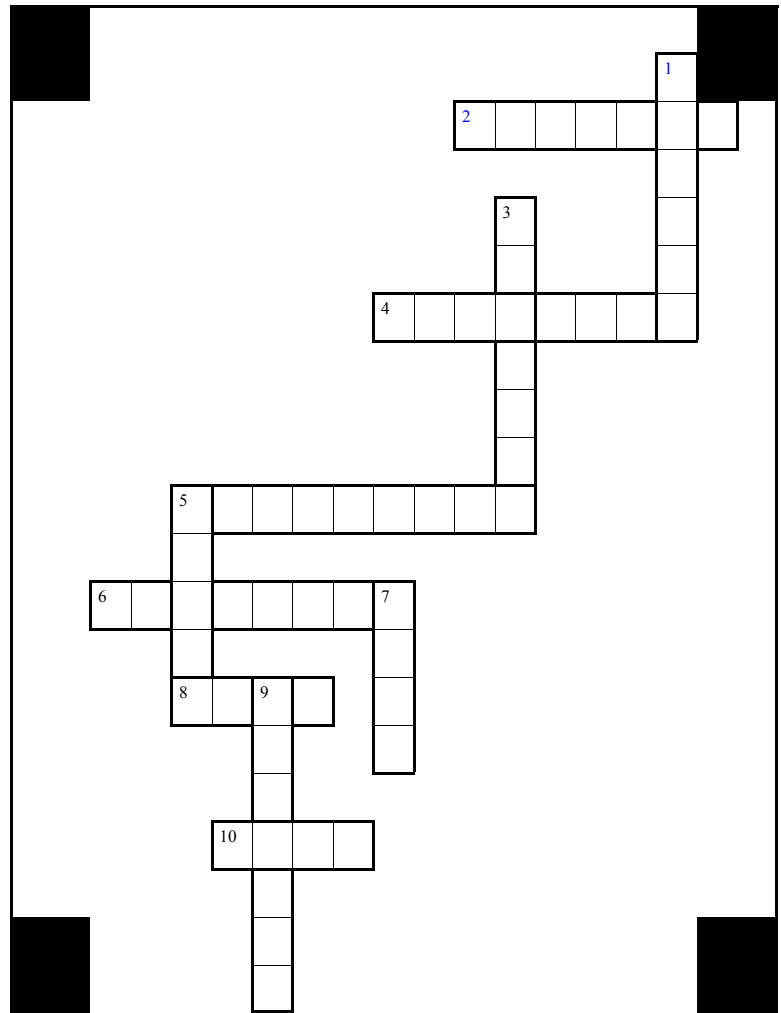
people will try to disguise wrong and discourage us from doing right. Our friends might say to us; well everybody is doing it, why should you do that nobody will ever do good to you for that, only a coward would not do that or why don't you get him back he hurt you didn't he. We need to be careful that we do not let others discourage us from doing right and if they try we should remember Jesus' answer – Get thee Behind me Satan. As Christ said of Peter it is also true of those who would lead us astray that they are not minding the things of God, but are minding the things of man. Let us mind the things of God.

As we seek to mind the things of God, God's will should become the first priority in our life. Christ said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross, and let him follow me. Whosoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."(Matthew 16:24-25) It is very hard for men to understand this and we need to remember this because as Christ goes on to emphasize our soul is very precious.

The last point made in the 16th chapter is that the kingdom would come during the lifetime of the disciples. Christ told them, "Indeed I assure you that some standing here will not taste of death until they see the Son of man coming in his Kingdom." The Kingdom has come.

In chapter seventeen the great event is the transfiguration of Christ. Here we see Christ speaking with Moses and Elijah. What an amazing sight. Here we learn that we should not put anyone on equality with Christ. Peter suggested to build a temple for Elijah, Moses, and Christ, but this was not acceptable. When Peter suggested this a bright light over shadowed them and God said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Hear Him." The same holds true for us today. We need to make sure that we are hearing God and not man.

W Answer the Questions on Page
118
CROSS to fill in the Puzzle.
R



Cross Word Fun for Learning

Across

2. Jesus told the Pharisees that they could read the sky and determine the _____, but did not read the signs of the times. (16:2-3)
4. Jesus led Peter, James and John upto a high _____, were he was transfigured before them. (17:1-2)
5. As they entered this city Peter was asked, "Does your teacher pay the half-shekel?" (17:24)
6. When Jesus asked his disciples whom men said that he was they said John the immerser, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the _____. (16:13-14)
8. The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and requested a _____. (16:1)
10. Christ told Peter to go and cast a hook in the sea to catch a _____. In this animals mouth Peter was to find a shekel to pay the tax for Christ and Peter. (17:24-27)

Down

1. Jesus told the disciples to beware of the _____ of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (16:6)
3. Jesus told the disciples that this would come before they all had died. (16:28)
5. Jesus said, "If any man wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his _____, and let him follow me." (16:24-25)
7. Jesus asked, What a man would give in exchange for this? (16:26)
9. Gathering in this city Christ told his disciples of some of things he was going to have to suffer. (17:22)

Lesson 14 - Across - 2. Commandment, 4. Seven, 6. Out, 8. Israel, 9. Heart, 12. Daughter. Down - 1. Rooted, 3. Traditions, 5. Four, 7. Defile, 10. Three, 11. Faith

We see more examples of faith in chapter 17 as Christ casts a demon out of a boy. As the chapter closes we see Christ work another miracle telling Peter to go and cast a hook into the sea and take the first fish where he would find a shekel to pay tribute so that he would not offend others.

These chapters emphasize the importance that Christ deserves. Jesus was God's Son and we should worship him and listen to him alone. Many men have went astray seeking to do the will of man; however, if we want to serve God we will follow the will of Christ. If we follow Christ we will think on the things of God and not on that of men. If we follow Christ we will deny self and take up Christ's cross. If we will hear Christ and continue to follow him then we are his sheep and we know that we have his care (John 10:27-28) and we will be those who are minding the things of God. Let us seek God first and put Satan behind us.

Match the verse with the Event

Scriptures from Matthew

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|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. 16:2-4 | b. 16:6 | c. 16:13-14 |
| d. 16:15-16 | e. 16:17-19 | f. 16:20-21 |
| g. 16:26 | h. 16:28 | i. 17:1-3 |
| j. 17:10-13 | k. 17:15-18 | l. 17:25-27 |
- _____ 1. Jesus healed a boy afflicted with a devil.
 - _____ 2. Christ told his disciples that the kingdom would come before all of them had died.
 - _____ 3. Christ asked, What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul.
 - _____ 4. Jesus asked his disciples whom men said that he was.
 - _____ 5. Jesus asked his disciples "Whom say ye that I am?" And Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God.
 - _____ 6. Christ reproved the Pharisees and Sadducees because they could discern the face of the sky but could not

discern the signs of the times.

_____ 7. Jesus began revealing to his disciples how he was going to die and be raised again.

_____ 8. Christ was transfigured and was talking with Moses and Elijah.

_____ 9. Jesus warned his disciples to beware of the leave of the Pharisees.

_____ 10. Jesus paid tribute so that others would not be offended.

_____ 11. Jesus revealed that John the Baptist was the Elijah that was prophesied to come.

_____ 12. Christ told Peter that upon his statement he would build his Church.

Questions

1. What did the Pharisees and Sadducees come and ask Jesus for? How did Christ answer their request?
2. What did Christ mean when he told the disciples to beware the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”?
3. Whom did men say that Christ was?
4. Whom did Peter say that Christ was?
5. What did Christ build his Church on?
6. What did Peter do when Christ told him of how He must suffer, die and be raised again? What did Christ say to Peter? What can we learn from this?
7. What is the value of a soul?
8. Which disciples were present at Christ transfiguration? Whom did Christ talk with at his transfiguration?
9. What did Peter suggest at the transfiguration? What happened after his suggestion?
10. Why were the disciples unable to cast out the devil from the boy?
11. Who was the Elijah to come?