



I. Towards the Cross

- The exchange between Jesus and Peter after Peter's great confession of Jesus as the Messiah shows that the disciples still had much to learn.

I. Towards the Cross

- The passage indicates how aware Jesus was of His mission and of the suffering He would face as well as His resolve to face it.
- Peter conducted his own private theological class for Jesus, but it was Peter who had to learn the lesson.

Our verses this morning are some of the most important for a follower of Christ, because it is in these verses that we get a clear description of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

3 Conditions for True Discipleship

- We must surrender ourselves completely to Jesus.
- We must identify with Him in suffering and death.
- We must Follow Him obediently.

II. Terms of Surrender

- Denying self is not the same as self-denial.
- Denying oneself is the opposite of self-affirmation. It means that we voluntarily give up what we think is best for us, and embrace what God deems best for us.

II. Terms of Surrender

- To lose yourself is not an act of desperation; it is an act of devotion.
- To take up your cross reveals the extent of the surrender that Jesus calls for. Surrender to the point of death.

III. Lost, Then Found

- The choice to gain the world but lose your soul ends in emptiness as the soul has rejected God's way.
- Discipleship is a question of whether we will **waste** our lives or **invest** our lives.

III. Lost, Then Found

- You may gain the whole world, and be a success in the eyes of men, and yet have nothing to show for your life when you stand before God.

III. Lost, Then Found

- Satan promises you glory, but in the end, you receive suffering. God promises you suffering, but in the end, that suffering is transformed into glory.

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30