

What Will a Man Give in Exchange for His Soul?

A revelation from God

- Mat 16:15-16 ESV He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! **For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**

While at the same time an influence from Satan

- Mat 16:21 ESV 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. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." 23 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.**"

Jesus wanted nothing to stand in his way - identified Peter's problem

1. **Get behind me** - he wanted nothing to interfere with him keeping the will of His father.
2. **Satan - not possessed - but an adversary does all in his power to move us off the will of God**
3. **You are a hindrance** -- an OFFENSE -- to me - it means a trap stick, a snare
4. **Not setting his mind on the things of God (disposed in a direction) (to set your affection on)**

Teaching moment -What does it mean to follow? (4 verbs, come, deny take up, follow)

Mat 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "**If anyone would come** after me, let him **deny** himself and **take up** his cross and **follow** me.

It is a call to ANYONE - vs the best of the best in the culture of the day

- **Bet Sefer - 6-12** learn to read, write and math using Torah (goal to memorize the Torah)
- Most go into trade...but the best of the best would go to **Bet Midrash...13-15** (memorize Tanakh)
- Best of the best → **Bet Talmud 15-30** - invited to follow a rabbi, learn his words and his ways, take his yoke (his interpretation of scripture) & one day have his own disciples
- **Jesus isn't looking for the BEST of the BEST → Jesus invites ANYONE**

It is a call to DENY OURSELVES (same word where Peter denied the Lord) - to disavow,

Rather than deny himself → Peter focused on himself - on things of man - what was important to him

- Instead of denying ourselves, we want to **find** ourselves, **pamper** ourselves, we are self-absorbed, pursue what is **important to us**

TAKE UP HIS CROSS - and follow the path I am taking - take up the cross - surrender to God's will

- Taking up the cross means one thing → you are heading to your execution
- For Jesus his path led to the cross because the cross was complete submission to the will of the Father
- **Taking up the cross - humility leading to obedience to the nth degree (whatever that is for you)**
- **Let this mind be in your that was in Christ (Phil 2:5)**
 - Php 2:8 ESV And being found in human form, he **humbled** himself by becoming **obedient** to the point of **death**, even death on a cross.
 - This is setting our mind on the things of God RATHER than the things of man

It is a call to FOLLOW HIM → the rabbi expects this (be with, become like, do the same, make disciples)

- **To Be WITH Him**
 - Mar 3:14 ESV And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach
- **To Be LIKE Him**
 - Luk 6:40 ESV A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
- **To DO what He does**
 - Joh 14:12 ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.
- **To Lead others to do the same**
 - Mat 28:18-20 ESV And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Getting back to the discussion with the disciples

A promise that flies in the face of the philosophy of our world

- Mat 16:25-26 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life** for my sake ***will find it.*** 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?
 - Denying self is more about setting your mind on the things of God - lose life for MY SAKE

What will we give in exchange for our soul? Nothing, only the blood of Jesus provides the exchange

...But we do EXCHANGE OUR SOUL FOR SOMETHING - this is the LOSING OUR LIFE

- **Our soul is our life, our time, our energy - and every day I exchange it for something**

To lose our life, we have to value something more

- Mar 8:35 ESV For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life ***for my sake*** and ***the gospel's*** will save it.
- Php 3:7-8 ESV But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, ***I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

What are you exchanging your life for?

- **Is it more valuable than your life?**
- **Is it for the things of men?**
- **Is it for the things of God?**