



Week 4: *Death & Discipleship*

APPETIZER: The Only Thing That Matters

If the Resurrection of Jesus actually happened,
then nothing else really matters.
If the Resurrection of Jesus did not actually happen,
then nothing else really matters.
~ Jaroslav Pelikan (Yale History Professor)

Discipleship to Jesus is not passive niceness. Discipleship to Jesus means actively initiating the Jesus way of life-affirming, other-oriented, enemy-loving, sin-forgiving, relationship-reconciling, peace-promoting, non-violent agape.

DINE IN: The Plain Passion Predictions

1. **Matthew 16:21-23 // Mark 8:31-33 // Luke 9:22**
2. **Matthew 17:22-23 // Mark 9:30-32 // Luke 9:43-45**
3. **Matthew 20:17-19 // Mark 10:32-34 // Luke 18:31-34**
4. **Matthew 26:2**

They mostly follow this pattern...

Clarity → Confusion → Correction → Call to Discipleship

Matthew 16:13-28

Who or what is "this rock" in verse 18?

1. Peter
2. Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah
3. Jesus

TAKE OUT: Do you really want to follow Jesus?

Do you want to be an apprentice of Jesus?

1. DENY (Renounce self-interest)
2. DIE (Denounce self-preservation)
3. FOLLOW (Get behind and in line with Jesus)

"STILL. HERE." Prayer...

**"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.
Yet not as I will, but as you will."
~ Jesus (Matthew 26:39)**

NEXT WEEK... Part 4: *Why Did Jesus Die? In his own words.*

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts of encouragement that are connected to this week's teaching?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Matthew 16:13-end**.
 - a. How would/do you respond if someone asks you who you think Jesus is? Is your answer to that question lived out in your daily life? If so, talk about some examples. If not, why not?
 - b. How would you respond to someone who says "Sure Jesus is the Son of God – we're all God's children! Jesus is just showing us what is true for all people." (How does Jesus' parable in **Mark 12:1-12** inform your response?)
 - c. Does Jesus seem harsh to Peter in **verse 23**? What can we learn from Jesus' refusal to listen to Peter's "bad idea"? What are some tempting cultural or religious lies you need to tear down in your life?
 - d. After 3 or 4 very plain clear teachings from Jesus about his own death and resurrection, the disciples seemed not to get it at all. Do you think there is any plain and clear teaching of Jesus that Christians today tend to ignore, avoid, or misinterpret because it doesn't fit with what they want to be true? Do YOU do this?
 - e. What are some ways you see others and/or yourself trying to "save their life" and "gain the whole world"?
 - f. BONUS STUDY: If time permits, look up the other prediction passages listed in your notes and talk about what more you learn as a disciple?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Is there something specific in your life that you sense Jesus telling you to join him in praying to the Father "not as I will but as you will"? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.