



# JESUS' PARADOXICAL PATH

MATTHEW 16:24-28

**par-a-dox** *n. something that seems logically contradictory, yet holds a truth in tension*

## I. Jesus' path to life leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**DENY YOURSELF:** Die to your innate desires which conflict with God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

**TAKE UP YOUR CROSS:** Die to your image and accept God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

**FOLLOW CHRIST:** Die to your own way and submit to God's \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

## II. Jesus' path through death leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

*"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? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." vv. 25-28*

### ■ WHY WOULD I FOLLOW JESUS ON HIS PARADOXICAL PATH?

The more you lose your life, the more \_\_\_\_\_ you find for your soul.

The more you forfeit in this life, the more you \_\_\_\_\_ in the next.

The more closely you follow Him, the more you \_\_\_\_\_ His love for you.





### Faithful Finance

Money is a powerful tool, one that can either deepen our peace or heighten our anxiety. Join us for a workshop rooted in Scripture, as we uncover God's design for money and learn to trust His faithfulness in every season of life. Save the date for Saturday, Feb. 28! Scan the QR code to register.

### Volunteer for KidsCamp

Join the mission of helping kids meet Jesus and hear the gospel in powerful, life-changing ways.



## HOME GROUP

# Lesson + Devotional

*Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.*

1. What examples of a *paradox* can you think of? What examples of this concept have you experienced in your walk with Jesus?
2. Read Matthew 16:24-28. Explain in your own words the paradox of verse 25.
3. What did Jesus say we must do to be His followers, and what is the cost?
4. How was Jesus' question in verse 26 really a warning? How is the warning especially applicable to those who live in an affluent society such as ours?
5. What does it mean for a Christian to take up a cross? Give some examples.
6. What is one way you feel led to deny your own will for Christ's sake?
7. What change in your weekly schedule could you make to better reflect what God considers important in this passage?

## HELPFUL

# Quotes

To deny self does not mean to deny *things*. It means to give yourself wholly to Christ and share in His shame and death. Paul described this in Romans 12:1-2 and Philipians 3:7-10, as well as in Galatians 2:20. To take up a cross does not mean to carry burdens or have problems. (I once met a woman who told me her asthma was the cross she had to bear!) To take up the cross means to identify with Christ in His rejection, shame, suffering and death. But suffering always leads to glory. - Warren Wiersbe

For a disciple of Christ to take up his cross is for him to be willing to start on a death march. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be willing, in His service, to suffer the indignities, the pain and even the death of a condemned criminal. Obviously the extent of suffering and persecution varies from believer to believer, from time to time, and from place to place. ... Not every disciple is called on to be martyred, but every disciple is commanded to be *willing* to be martyred. - John MacArthur

## YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



### Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

### Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



### Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

### Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



## A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.  
**(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)**
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.  
**(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)**
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.  
**(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.  
**(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)**

### You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!