

The Cross Walk

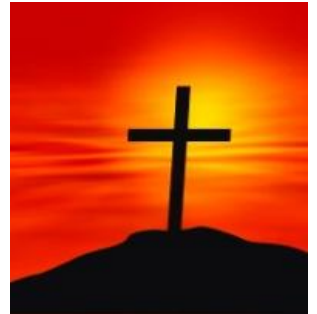
Matthew 16:21-28

Getting Started

What's the most difficult walk you've ever taken?

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** Matthew begins this section, "From that time on." To what does the phrase refer?
2. What does Jesus predict will happen to him in Jerusalem?
3. If you had been there, how do you think you would have responded to Jesus' prophecy in v. 21? Why?
4. Why do you think Peter contradicts Jesus in v. 22?
5. Why does Jesus respond to Peter so harshly in v. 23?
6. What did Jesus mean that Peter had in mind the *things of men* rather than the *things of God*?
7. How can we obstruct the purposes of God in the same way today?
8. **Read Matthew 16:24-28.** What are the requirements for anyone who wants to become a disciple of Christ? Explain each of the phrases in v. 24.
9. How can a person lose his life by saving it? (v. 25)
10. How can a person find life by losing it? (v. 25)
11. How does Jesus emphasize his point in v. 26?
12. How can Jesus' prophecy in v. 27 help us to follow Christ wholeheartedly now?



Getting Personal

- In what ways can we unintentionally be a *stumbling block* to others – giving them advice that does not reflect the things of God?
- Are you dead or alive? Explain.
- Have you taken up your cross to follow Christ? If so, in what ways have you found life?
- How can this passage help us live as fully devoted followers of Christ?