



Proclamation of the Kingdom – 4

**(Leader's Notes)**

Answer to the blank: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'

**1. THE COST OF FOLLOWING THE KING: Death and Resurrection**

**Matthew 16:21-28**

Answers to the blanks: v21 He must suffer, be killed, and raised to life.  
'He must go ... and suffer'  
'He must be killed ... and be raised'  
v22 Peter rebuked Jesus as he didn't want Jesus to go through this.



What does it mean to 'deny our self and take up our cross?'

*(Discuss this question together and encourage the members to give practical ways that you can put this into practise in your lives. Below are some notes that may help you.)*

Meaning of Matthew 16:24

Jesus is not saying that every Christian must suffer physical death. It does mean though, that each of us must be ready to die for our faith, if we had to make a choice between being loyal to Jesus or death. There are many believers in different parts of the world who have had to make this choice.

What it really means is that we totally surrender self to Him – our will, ambitions, hopes, and our rights – are all given to Christ – and we allow Him to live through us. There can only be one ruler or King in our lives – self or Jesus Christ. When you take up the cross – you die to self and allow Him to take over your life. This is how God created us to be – to live in relationship with Him. When we make this choice we will experience the blessings of the Kingdom in our lives.

What future event is Jesus speaking of in v27?

He is referring to His second coming when all men will stand before Him, to be rewarded for what they have done in this life.

**2. THE CONFIRMATION THAT JESUS IS KING: The Transfiguration**

**Matthew 17:1-8**

*(Read these verses together as a group, then give the members time to read the verses on their own. Ask them to write down the verse they like the best, and what they think God is saying to them. Allow plenty of time. Ask members to share what they have written.)*

*Bring your study to a close by going through the notes at the end of the worksheet.*