

Proclamation of the Kingdom - 4

Everyone wants to receive the blessings of the Kingdom. We are going to discover though, that we first need to be willing to pay the cost. In our last study we learnt how the disciples had come to a full understanding of who Jesus was. It was Peter who made the confession: _____

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples what was going to happen to Him.

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

Matthew 16:21-28

What was going to happen to Jesus? V21 _____

Jesus already knew this was God's plan. Notice that Jesus said:

'He _____ go... and suffer'
'He _____ be killed... and be raised'

How did Peter respond to these words? _____

Not long before Jesus had praised Peter for understanding who He was, but now He had to rebuke him. Jesus had just called Peter a 'rock', but now He has to call him a 'stumbling block'! Sometimes we are like Peter. One moment we speak words directed by the Holy Spirit, but then words from the enemy come out of our mouths. We need to be on guard.

Jesus knew that unless He died the Kingdom would not be established. Now Jesus goes on to show the disciples that they must follow Him too.

Notice that Jesus said: "If anyone would come after me he _____ deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." See Matthew 16:24. We are given a choice. This is what it means to be a real Christian.



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

What future event is Jesus speaking about in v27?

Jesus could only come again in glory after He had died and risen from the dead. This is a spiritual law: death must come first, then life and glory. We often want the abundant life, blessing and glory first! It is when we are willing to 'die' that we receive life. This is the cost.

2. THE CONFIRMATION THAT JESUS IS KING: The Transfiguration

Jesus promised that He would reveal the glory of His Kingdom to the disciples. It would be a confirmation that He was the Son of God. This took place six days later when they saw Jesus transfigured.

Matthew 17:1-8

Read these verses together, then read them again on your own. Write down a verse you like in the box below. What do you think God is saying to you?

The disciples saw Moses and Elijah with Jesus on the mountain. These were two of the greatest men in the Old Testament. Then the disciples heard a voice from Heaven, which assured them that the confession they had made about Jesus was true: He was greater than any other, He was the Son of God.

They also saw the glory that Jesus had spoken about. In the Book of Exodus we are told that Moses' face shone when he came down from Mount Sinai. It was only a reflection of the glory of God. As the disciples looked at Jesus, they saw God's glory shining from within Him. This was His true glory.

The Holy Spirit wants to work in our lives so we will shine with God's glory. How is this possible?

When we 'deny ourselves and take up the cross'

then we will be

'transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory.'

2 Corinthians 3:18