

“The Yoke of Rest is Through the Way of the Cross”

Matthew 16:24-28

The Gospel of Matthew

Theme:

The only way to find the rest God wants you to know and experience is found in Jesus the Christ. **The way to Him is through death, burial, and resurrection.** Nothing else will do and nothing more can be done (vv. 25, 26).

Introduction:

What we have in our passage are three statements that are in synonymous parallelism. This might strike you as “new” only because it is not our typical gospel invitation. We read this as a “three step process,” but nothing is further from its intent. Jesus is not calling His disciples to higher levels of holiness or commitment or sacrifice or obedience. Jesus is telling them and us that unless and until we abandoning self-salvation, we cannot be saved.

In addition, as we often stress, the same gospel you believe at the front end is the same gospel you believe today. The act of dying is daily. The act of dying is seeing yourself for what you are. You can’t, but God can, and Jesus did.

THE OUTLINE:

I. The Pathway (v. 24)

There is no following apart from this. There is no plan “B” or an alternative to this. Either you will come the Jesus way or you will not come at all.

A CHRISTIAN IS . . .

- 1a One who has said no to self,
 - 1b accepted the claims of Christ,
 - 1c and is now following Him.
- [Synonymous Parallelism]

Three reasons or motives are given as to why one should listen to Jesus.

II. The Motivation (vv. 25-27)

- A. 1st Motivation (v. 25)
- B. 2nd Motivation (v. 26)
- C. 3rd Motivation (v. 27)

III. The Transition (v. 28)

Continued on the other side . . .

BOTTOM LINE - Accept who He is; obey what He says!!!!

1. What we came through, we continue in. This isn't an action step for the victorious Christian life. This is the Christian life. What gets you in, keeps you in.
2. Unless and until you are willing to die to self-salvation, you can never be saved. Will you give up to gain? Will you die to self in order that you might live in Christ?

