

What Matters Most To You? — 05/28/23

TEXT- Matthew 16:24-27 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Mark 8:34-38 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Luke 9:23-26 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

INTRO - Notice that Matthew states, "He said to His disciples" but Mark adds "He called the people unto Him" and Luke further states that, "He said to them all." Clearly this admonition was not just for the Disciples but for every believer. Let him, deny himself - That is, let him surrender to God his will, his affections, his body, and his soul. Let him not seek his own happiness as the supreme object, but be willing to renounce all, and lay down his life also, if required.

Before the flood mankind became so corrupt that everyman's thoughts were sinful continually.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Prior to the Kings being established in Israel there were Judges. The book of Judges concludes with:

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Eli allowed his sons to do whatever they wanted.

1 Samuel 3:13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

Solomon withheld nothing he desired. He got everything he wanted.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. 11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Demas forsook Paul having loved the world.

2 Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

There is a cost to true discipleship.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Are you a follower of Jesus Christ?

How serious are you.

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. — Jim Elliot

What matters most to you?

Show me how you spend your money and I'll show you what you love.

What are your top priorities?

Is God first in every decision and thought?

John D. Rockefeller was asked how much money is enough. His reply, "Just a little bit more."

An 18-year-old graduate can work for the FAA and their starting salary will be \$100,000 per year. In 20 years, they can retire with full benefits.

Young people are impressed with the popularity of the latest occupation.

Several years ago, Television had programs about emergency workers and everyone wanted to be an EMT. After 911 many wanted to be a fireman or policeman. There are always those that dream of popularity.

Hollywood, modeling, sports stars, billionaires, military, doctors, physical therapists, or nurses etc. Many of those aspirations are not bad,

but the big question is, "what does God want." How does He enter into the picture. Is His will your first consideration?

Who wants to be a missionary or a preacher or preacher's wife?

Has the influence of the world unconsciously influenced your thinking? Have we forgotten why men fought for our freedom? Have we become so prosperous and so much has been given to us that we fail to see our nation being destroyed?

Is there not a cause?

- Churches are compromising and closing. Social drinking is accepted. Dress is dictated by the world's fashion.
- The music is sometimes as corrupt in the church as in the worldly culture.
- Men's ambitions are no different than those in the world.
- Is the church asleep?
- Are we in the Laodicean age?
- Are these the end times like the days of Noah?
- Where are the labourers. Where are the faithful church members? Church attendance is down substantially.
- Pastors are hard to find.
- Sunday schools have disappeared.
- The fear of God is absent from society.
- Hoodlums are taking over our cities and our streets.
- Crime is up.
- We sit idly by seeking worldly goods while lost souls are dying.

What is most important to you? What do you want to accomplish in life?

What can you do? What should you do?

- ✚ Humble yourself before God.
- ✚ Listen to His call.
- ✚ Invest your life in reaching others.
- ✚ Find the will of God and do it.

CONCL – 1 John 2:17 *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*