

## “Following Jesus” - Matthew 16:13-26

Ask - Do you “follow” anyone on social media? Who and why?

Background - Jesus traveled to Phoenicia where He healed a demon-possessed girl. He then went to the Decapolis and fed the 4,000. Afterward He returned to Galilee and traveled north to the region of Caesarea Philippi.

“Know the Messiah” - Matthew 16:13-20

(v13-14) What question did Jesus ask His disciples? How did they answer Him?

(v15-16) How then did Jesus reword His question? Who answered and what did he say?

(v17-20) What did Jesus say to Peter? What promises did Jesus make to him? What order did He give to His disciples?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/keys-of-the-kingdom.html>

THE DISCIPLES TOLD JESUS THAT THE PEOPLE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AS THE MESSIAH. HOWEVER, PETER KNEW AND STATED THAT JESUS WAS THE CHRIST, THE PROMISED MESSIAH.

“Embrace His Mission” - Matthew 16:21-23

(v21) From this point forward, what did Jesus begin to reveal and explain to His disciples?

(v22) How did Peter respond to Jesus' dire prediction?

(v23) How did Jesus rebuke Peter? What do His words say about His coming suffering and crucifixion?

FOR THE FIRST TIME, JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES ABOUT HIS COMING ARREST AND CRUCIFIXION. PETER WAS UPSET, BUT JESUS TOLD HIM TO TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN.

“Become His Disciple” - Matthew 16:24-26

(v24) What did Jesus say was necessary in order to be His disciple? In the context of this passage, what does that mean?

(v25) Explain what “save his life” and “lose his life” mean in this verse? Discuss.

(v26) How would you answer the 2 questions Jesus asks in this verse? How

have you seen this proven?

TO BE JESUS' DISCIPLE, WE MUST PUT ASIDE OUR WORLDLY DESIRES AND PLANS AND REPLACE THEM WITH GOD'S.

Application - To follow Jesus, you must first recognize who He is. You can't truly be a follower of Jesus if you don't acknowledge Him as the Christ. Then you must embrace His message and mission, no matter how troubling or difficult it may seem. Finally, you must deny yourself and your own carnal ambitions to obey the will of God. What do you find to be the most challenging aspect of discipleship?