



Matthew

16:21-28

New International Version
1984 (NIV1984)

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[f] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Changing your life's paradigm

(1) Acknowledge the Truth

"Truth is not a virtue unless it is given with love!" — Pete Welsh

(2) Accepting the truth

(3) Acting upon the truth



SERMON NOTES

Facing the Person in the Mirror

An Addictive Culture –We are becoming slaves to a master from whom we cannot escape. Like a patient who can diagnose the disease; who knows what is wrong, but can find no remedy.

Draw the **LINE**

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man a more clever devil." C.S. Lewis

"Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere." GK Chesterton

Take **RESPONSIBILITY**

"Until a person can say honestly, 'I am what I am today because of the choices I made yesterday,' that person cannot say, 'I choose otherwise.'" — Stephen R. Covey

Stay **CONNECTED**

People grow where they are affirmed and inspired.

First United Methodist Church

Faith **CHALLENGE**

- Be an example, not a excuse. (show them what)
- Be an inspiration, not a victim. (show them why)
- Be a contributor, not a consumer. (show them how)

SACRED JOURNEY

WHY DID GOD BECOME A MAN IN JESUS?

Although the Triune God is from all eternity, the Scriptures teach that at a certain point in time the second person of the Trinity became a man known as Jesus Christ, or Jesus of Nazareth. This is known as the incarnation, which simply means “in the flesh.” We have already learned how the entire human race fell into decay mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally because of Adam’s choice. We have also pointed out how the priests, temple and sacrificial system were not able to fully solve the problem of sin in the human heart. The principle reason for this is that the entire human race is made up of sinners and there is no one in the human race without the disease. As Augustine said, “We are sinners by birth and by choice.”

How can the human race be rescued out of rebellion and avoid the inevitable condemnation when everyone without exception is sick with sin? Who can do cataract surgery but someone who can see clearly? The only way is to bring another Adam into the world; someone who, like the first Adam, was without sin and who could once again have the choice to obey or disobey, but this time get it right. In other words, there had to be a way to go back and rewrite that first chapter in our history recorded in Genesis chapter 3. Another storyline is created.

But how? God knows that the whole human race is ineligible, so it couldn’t be an inside job. God devised a plan from the “outside” which involved the radical idea of God himself entering into human history. But even this was not without problems. He had to find a way to enter the human race in an abnormal way that would not pass on the sin nature, and yet would still be fully human. So Christ was born of a virgin into the human race as the second Adam.

The light of God came into the darkness of our world to reveal the truth, to restore life and to rekindle the love of God without guilt or condemnation in Christ.

“What’s the point of striving to get to the top of the whole world only to lose your identity in the process? The path of

success will demand more of you, promise more and deliver less than What is so valuable you would be willing to trade your joy, your unique qualities to own it? Are you ready to rethink the path you’re on?” (my paraphrase of Matthew 16:26)

Aim for heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim for earth and you will get neither.”

“What’s the point of striving to get to the top of the heap, to be better than everyone else, to be admired, applauded and worship if in the process lose your unique, special identity that makes you you? What is so valuable you would be willing to give up being the artist, musician, healer, comforter in order to own it? Are you thought about the path you’re on and what you’re becoming?” (my paraphrase of Matthew 16:26)

We never see each other anymore.

We’re under such pressure.

Step back into work Sunday evening.

What do you value?

What is your legacy?

What brings you joy?

To Learn and not to do is really not to learn.

To Know and not to do is really not to know.

To Believe and not to do is to despair.