

Now Wonder They Crucified Him

Take Up Your Cross – Matthew 16:21-25

Discussion Points

March 31, 2019

Read & Reflect

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20. What did Peter mean when he said, “You are the Christ.” How surprising is Jesus’ favourable response?
2. Read Matthew 16:21-25. What was Peter’s intent in responding to Jesus’ announcement? How surprising is Jesus’ negative response?

Explore

3. How can we lose our life for Jesus? Do you ever think you are in danger of forfeiting your soul for the sake of gain?
4. What do you think it means to take up your cross and follow Jesus?
 - Life is going to be no fun.
 - It will cost you to follow Jesus.
 - Grin and bear it.
 - The way to life is through death
5. In what ways do you eagerly “wear the cross” while at the same time refuse to “bear the cross”?
6. In what aspect of your life do you need to trust God in order to die to self?
 - A bad habit
 - A major decision
 - A nagging frustration
 - A spiritual struggle
7. What is it that prevents you from living the “Jesus way” – to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus?

Pray:

This way of life that Jesus suggests - to bear the cross - is perhaps the scariest thing that he teaches.

- Spend some time praying for each other, especially bringing to prayer the things mentioned in response to question 7.
- Pray for the Spirit’s presence and blessing to have new eyes to see this way of life as love, joy, and peace, for it is the gift of God through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

