

Gospel – ‘good news’ about Jesus

Audience - Jewish Christians

Purpose – show Jesus is the Messiah (man sent by God to rescue His people from their enemies and re- establish Israel as a nation) by:

- Demonstrating His fulfillment of OT prophecy
- Showing His unique authority through His words and actions

High point - You are the Messiah the Son of the Living God (Matt 16.16)

MATTHEW RECAP



Four necessities for the Messiah

Go to Jerusalem – makes sense;
Jerusalem is political/religious center of
Judaism

**Suffer at the hands of the religious
leadership** – disciples had already
witnessed this

Be killed – impossible; same person can't
be both a victorious conqueror and killed

Be raised from the dead – didn't
comprehend, all surprised by Jesus'
resurrection

MATTHEW
16:21-28



Three necessities for Jesus' disciples

Deny ourselves – prioritize Jesus' agenda above our own

Fasting – allows us to practice denying ourselves

Seek first the Kingdom –
'Positive' side of denying ourselves
In our seeking first of Jesus and His Kingdom we will need to deny ourselves at times

MATTHEW
16:21-28



Take up our cross – readiness to die
Literal in many parts of the world – 4,998
martyrs in 2024

For us?

Acknowledge - alignment with Jesus
will bring conflict with world which
may result in suffering
Stand firm – remain faithful to Jesus
in face of suffering

Deny self – ‘internally driven;’ in seeking
God we may have to deny ourselves

Take up cross – ‘externally driven;’ our
circumstances may require us to suffer in
order to be faithful to Jesus

MATTHEW
16:21-28



Follow Him – two expressions

Live like Jesus

- Make choices He would make if He were us
- Keep in step with the Spirit

Be led by Jesus the Good Shepherd

- Lie down in green pastures – peace, security
- Leads us by quiet waters – restoration
- Leads in the right paths – guidance
- Walks with us through dark valley – comfort

MATTHEW
16:21-28



Logic of discipleship

Rests on the reality of two ages – we live in overlap; what we do in this age determines destiny in age to come:

- **Present evil age** – marked by sin, suffering and death
 - Satan is the god of this age
 - Christians struggle with flesh, world, and devil
- **Age to come** – marked by rule and reign of God
 - Jesus is God of the Age to Come
 - Christians will be free from effects of the fall; we will be His people and He will be our God

MATTHEW
16:21-28



Logic of discipleship

Makes sense to deny ourselves, take up crosses, and follow Jesus even though doing so may very well result in suffering and death because:

- Whoever loses their life in this age will find life in the age to come
- Whoever finds their life in this age will lose life in the age to come
- Our souls are worth more than anything in this world
- We can't save ourselves for the age to come
- Jesus will reward us in the age to come based on how we respond to Him

MATTHEW
16:21-28

