

THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP
(Matthew 16:24-26)

- I. The PRINCIPLE (Matt. 16:24)
 - A. Applies to “ANYONE”
 - 1. No RESTRICTIONS
 - 2. No EXCEPTIONS
 - B. Requires DENIAL of SELF
 - 1. Rejecting any claim to personal MERIT (Matt. 5:3; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; 7:18)
 - 2. Rejecting any expectation of personal COMFORT (Matt. 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:12-14)
 - 3. Rejecting any fulfillment of personal DESIRE (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5)
 - C. Requires ACCEPTANCE of one’s own CROSS
 - 1. Enduring the world’s CONDEMNATION
 - 2. Enduring TORTURE and DEATH
 - D. Requires LOYAL OBEDIENCE
 - 1. Includes RESPONDING in FAITH to the GOSPEL (Rom. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:2)

2. Emphasizes LIVING in FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE (Matt. 7:21; 1 John 2:6)

II. The PARADOX (Matt. 16:25-26)

A. “Whoever wishes to SAVE his life will LOSE it” (16:25a, 26a)

1. Striving to FULFILL your DESIRES is HOPELESS (1 Pet. 4:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17)
2. Striving to ACHIEVE your AMBITIONS is VANITY (Ecc. 1:14; 2:11; James 3:14-16)
3. Striving to LIVE on your TERMS is FOLLY (Rom. 1:21-22)
4. SELLING your soul at ANY PRICE is to FORFEIT it

B. “Whoever LOSES his life for MY SAKE will FIND it” (16:25b; 26b)

1. OBEYING Christ brings ETERNAL FULFILLMENT (John 14:21-27)
2. PLEASING Christ brings ETERNAL JOY (John 15:10-11)
3. SUFFERING for Christ brings ETERNAL GLORY (1 Pet. 4:12-14)
4. WHATEVER you must SURRENDER for the sake of your soul is WORTH it (John 10:27-28)