

**DTR: DEFINE THE RELATIONSHIP**

**Pastor Bill Bowers | March 25, 2018**

*What Will You Give For Your Soul?*

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:21-28

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**NOTES:**

## HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Jesus places great value on the human soul, more than the temporal body (Matt. 10:28). Can you describe your soul? What makes it valuable to you? How do you value (nurture and take care of) your soul?
2. In our teaching text, Pastor Bill quoted Jesus saying, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it." This is the pivotal teaching for those who follow Jesus as his disciples. What do you think it means? Can you describe how "one loses their life," yet they continue to "live" many years as a Christian believer?
3. Consider the method of Jesus as he conquered sin and death; he surrendered to the powers of government and religion, he refused to defend himself or others, he allowed himself and others to be killed for their beliefs. How does this make you feel?
4. Put yourself in Jesus' place or one of the disciples... What do you think your actions would be? Consider circumstances of today; now, what do you feel your choices for action would be (consider your political views, social perspectives on violence and the use of violence to defend yourself, social justice, etc.) Do you think Jesus would act differently today than 2,000 years ago?
5. What do you hope and believe will happen when you die?
6. The earliest Christians believed so strongly in the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19) that they did not fear death. As a result of this belief, they did not resist confrontation or persecution and many were martyred for their beliefs and way of living; they lived for tomorrow rather than today. How do you say that you live? Are you a tomorrow-believer or do you live for the day? Describe the way you live your life for tomorrow?
7. Do you sense, through this teaching, God may be calling you to make some decisions about the way you follow him? What are those decisions? Who will you talk to about them? What will you do in response to Jesus' calling to you today?