

ESSENTIALS
Matthew 16:21-28

The sermon started by talking about job descriptions.

Have you ever had a job that did not align with the job description that you were originally given? If so, what was that experience like?

Do you think some Christians feel like they were “bait-and-switched” by Jesus?

The first sermon point was that God’s plan does not always align with our plans.

Has there ever been a time when God’s plan for your life was completely different than your own plan?

Have there been times when God’s plan for you ended up being much better than your own plans?

Have there been times when God’s plan for you ended up being much more difficult than what your plan would have been?

Jesus told his disciples that part of being a disciple was denying themselves. This carries with it the idea of completely disowning our right to our rights and realizing it is not about us.

Is the idea of denying ourselves countercultural?

Is it sometimes hard for us to deny our right to our rights?

Jesus ended his discussion by stating that part of being a disciple involves following Him. This means following Him wherever He leads, whenever He leads, and in whatever He leads.

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something or to “follow Him” in a particular way?

If we are supposed to follow Jesus, how can we know where He wants us to go?

Does “following Jesus” always require us to do something life-changing like quitting our careers and becoming missionaries?

What does it look like to follow Jesus in ordinary ways in our ordinary lives?