

Message Notes

What Does the Cross Mean to You?

Matthew 16:21-26

Message Notes & Key Takeaways:

Group Questions

What Does the Cross Mean to You?

Matthew 16:21-26

1. Peter went from declaring Jesus as the Messiah to being called "Satan" by Jesus just a moments later. What was it about Peter's mindset that made him a "stumbling block to God's plan?"

How can a person tell if their mindset is headed in the same direction as Peter's?

2. It's natural to shut down or say "No thank you!" the moment we hear the word suffering, because we can fear suffering more than we fear or trust God. Share a time when a fear of hardship or discomfort made you hesitate to follow where God was leading.
3. **Read Matthew 16:24-25.** What makes the self-denial Jesus described so incredibly difficult? In what sense is it counter-cultural?
4. Carrying your cross is being willing to suffer for God's glory and the greater good of others. What does carrying a cross look like practically in your life right now at work?
5. Following Jesus means he comes first, even before a boss's opinion, family priorities, politics, or celebrity trends. Which area is the hardest for you to keep secondary to Jesus?
6. The sermon emphasized a powerful paradox: "Faith in Jesus may feel like it is killing you. It is actually the very thing that gives you life." How have you experienced this in your life?

Message Notes

What Does the Cross Mean to You?

Matthew 16:21-26

Message Notes & Key Takeaways:

Bible Reading for Today

Matthew 16:21-26

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

