

Title ideas:  
The King's Reward!  
The King's Destiny!  
The King's Cross and Crown!

## Matthew 16:21-28 - The King's Cross and Crown!

### Scriptures:

John 6:38 - For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Isaiah 53:4-6 - Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:20b-21 - ...when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps...

Psalm 16:9-10 - Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His

G756 -

G1166 -

### Notes:

In the previous message Jesus asked the disciples who they thought He was. Peter responded by saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" Jesus then proclaimed that He would build His church upon that confession. Then Jesus begins preparing His disciples for what is coming.

'began' – Jesus was always going to end up on the cross. He knew that from the beginning. The disciples had grown in faith to the point where Jesus felt they were ready for that truth.

'to show' – The disciples had an idea about the Messiah they had learned from the Jewish religious leaders. To them, the Messiah was a man who would come to deliver them from their enemies like King David had done. Jesus had been preparing them for the truth about who He was. Now it was time for them to understand where He was going.

'He must go' – Jesus was not here to be a good teacher or to work miracles. Jesus came to do the will of the Father (John 6:38). It was God's will that Jesus teaches people about the kingdom of God and work miracles. It was also His will that Jesus takes our sins to the cross (Isaiah 53:4-6). There was no other way to deal with the sin problem.

For hundreds of years, millions of innocent animals had been sacrificed in Jerusalem to try to deal with the sin problem. Jesus was going to Jerusalem to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away sin. And for anyone who believe, His sacrifice cleanses them of their sin and they are acceptable to God.

'suffer many things' – Christ's suffering was a part of God's plan of redemption for the world. Our suffering, though it does not compare with Christ's, also serves a purpose for God's kingdom. There are some who might suggest that suffering has no place in the life of a believer and might even question your faith if you are suffering. Every true believer is going to experience suffering in this world. And Peter says we should endure it patiently (1 Peter 2:20b-21). This is referring to suffering for doing the right thing.

'be killed' – Jesus is telling them plainly that He will die because of the 'chief priests and priests and scribe.'

disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and

G1163 -

suffer many things from the elders and chief

G3958 -

priests and scribes, and be killed, and

G615 -

'be raised' – Jesus predicted not only His death but that He would be resurrected on the third day. This was also predicted in the OT (Psalm 16:9-10).

Jesus often taught in paradoxes. If you want to be first, you must be last. If you want to find your life, you must lose it. If you want to be great, you must be the servant of all. In this message He teaches what might be the greatest paradox of all – for Jesus to establish the kingdom of heaven He must die. Peter just confessed that Jesus is the Christ – the anointed One of God. He had come to be the ruler of the world. It was inconceivable to them that the pathway to the crown was through the cross at Calvary. They were looking for a conquering King, not a crucified Christ!

be raised the third day.

Word study

Scriptures:

Isaiah 55:8-9 -

“For My thoughts are not  
your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My  
ways,” says the LORD.

9 “For as the heavens  
are higher than the earth,

So are My ways higher  
than your ways,

And My thoughts than  
your thoughts.”

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began

to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You,

G2008 – “to  
reprove v. — to  
admonish or warn  
forcefully (as  
expressing strong  
disapproval).”

Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

Notes:

The disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah, but they were struggling to accept God’s plan. Peter’s rebuke is an expression of disapproval.

Peter is saying, ‘God has a wonderful plan for your life, and it doesn’t include pain and suffering.’ Do you ever wish your pastor would teach that sermon. Not going to happen, it is not true!

God doesn’t think or act like a human (Isaiah 55:8-9). So, it should be no surprise when His plan for our lives is difficult to accept or confuses us. As we get to know God better, we learn to trust Him, and then simply accept His plan as the right one and choose to believe that it is good.

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get

behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me,

G4625 – stumbling block, a trap, an obstacle,

for you are not mindful of the things of God,

G5426 – to have attitude about,

Word is final. You either accept what He says, or you don't. Don't presume to tell God that you know better than He does.

but the things of men."

Notes:

In a matter of minutes Peter goes from 'you are Peter' to 'you are the Devil'.

Is Jesus calling Peter Satan? Why does Jesus say it this way? Because, without thinking, Peter is tempting Jesus to skip the cross. Satan did the same thing in the wilderness temptation after Christ's baptism. He suggested Jesus take the easy way to setting up the kingdom of heaven. This was a temptation to skip Gethsemane and Golgotha and go directly to Glory. There can be no glory without the cross.

'an offense' – Jesus had just told them what God's will was and Peter responded by telling Jesus He couldn't do it.

We must be very careful not to put a stumbling in the way of people who are trying to do God's will. First, this takes humility. You may have no idea what God is telling that person. We have a hard enough time figuring out what God is telling us to do.

There have been many times in the ministry when someone has shared something they believe God is calling them to do. Unless there is a biblical reason to challenge them, I choose to believe they are hearing from God. If I have concerns, depending upon the circumstances, I will share them with them. Usually, by the time they tell me of their decision, they have already decided. So, I choose to trust God and believe that even if it is a mistake that God can redeem it and make good out of it.

That can be hard. Having been walking with the Lord for a while, I know the suffering we can bring into our lives when we do what we want instead of what God wants. I have discovered that God never wastes anything in our lives, including self-inflicted suffering.

Peter was looking at things from a human perspective. That is the natural way people view the world. But, because we have the Holy Spirit, we can see things from the perspective of God. This is why Christians will do things the world doesn't understand or approve of. If we are going to faithful to God, we must be willing to accept that.

There are many in the world who are trying to tell Jesus how things should work. There are Christians and churches who are trying to tell God how gender works, or when life begins, or what Israel's place is in the world, and many other things. Listen, God has not asked for, nor does He need your opinion. He has spoken on all those things, and His

Scriptures:

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone

Notes:

'deny himself' – This is exceedingly hard for us as humans. It is choosing to say no to the things your flesh says it wants, even needs.

'follow Me' – We are going to follow something or someone, even if it is own desires. It would be better to follow someone who knows how to get us to the good we desire.

When Jesus said, Follow Me', He wasn't telling us to follow the King of heaven. He was telling us to follow the Christ who would suffer and die on a horrible wooden cross.

"When Christ calls a man He bids him come and die." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

'take up his cross' – Our cross may be almost anything in life. What qualifies something as a cross is that you are bearing it while denying yourself. To deny yourself is to refuse to put your needs, desires, wishes, dreams, hopes, ambitions, and cares before the will of God. It is to treat yourself as the last person you consider or think about. It is to put your trust so fully into God's hands that you will respond to Him without thinking about what it means for you. We often want to know what's in it for us. A person who denies themselves knows that what is in it for them is Jesus! And that is enough.

Jesus said, 'follow Me.' The primary character trait of someone following Christ is self-denial. The more you

desires to come after Me, let him deny

G2309 -

G533 – "to deny (acknowledge) v. – to refuse to recognize or acknowledge."

himself, and take up his cross, and follow

G190 -

there is in your faith, the less you are following Christ.

Me.

Scriptures:

2 Timothy 4:8 - Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will

Notes:

In this life we must choose a crown or a cross. Jesus is making it clear that there is no option C. If someone desires to save his life, he is choosing the crown – the cross is what awaits him. If loses his life for Jesus' sake, he is choosing the cross and a crown awaits him. The apostle Paul understood denying himself and losing his life for Christ's sake. He expressed his hope (2 Timothy 4:8).

lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake

will find it.

G2147 -

Scriptures:

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the

G5623 – benefit, value,

G2770 – financial or material gain,

Notes:

'soul' – The immortal part of us.

whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what

G2210 – forfeits,

G5590 -

will a man give in exchange for his soul?

G465 -

Scriptures:

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of

G2064 -

G1391 -

Notes:

'will come' – Jesus is referring to the Second Coming. In Christ's first coming, which we celebrated a couple of Sundays ago, He came to save lost sinners by dying on the cross. The next time, He will come as righteous judge, and King of the kingdom of heaven.

His Father with His angels, and then

'He will reward' – Jesus will give them what they deserve. It is human nature to think, 'What's in it for me.' This verse tells us that there is something in it for us. It doesn't tell us what that something is. As Christ-followers, our rewards come with our crown when Jesus comes back. Until then make it all about Jesus and less and less about you.

He will reward each according to his works.

G591 – recompense,

G4234 -

'his works' – those are the things we do in this life. Paul says we were created for something (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Scriptures:

28 Assuredly, I say to you, there are some

standing here who shall not taste death till

G1089 -  
experience

G2288 -

they see the Son of Man coming in His

kingdom.”

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Notes:

This verse is a little difficult to interpret. The most common interpretation is that Jesus is referring to what comes next in this gospel, the Transfiguration. But that is for next time.

Jesus is the Christ – the Son of the living God! Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords, but that is not how we are to relate to Him today – that is Jesus at the Second Coming. Today, Jesus is the crucified and resurrected Christ.

While we wait for the King of kings and Lord of lords Jesus to come again, we are called to live lives of self-denial.

Three things about being a Christ-follower before the worship team comes back up.

**Being a Christ-follower!**

First – **Lift Christ up higher!**

One of the things you hear from me regularly is that we ought to allow the Word of God to fill us with awe and wonder. Christ Jesus stepped down out of the perfection of heaven so that we could relate to Him as a man. At the same time, He never stopped being God. And He did that for you and for me. Wow! The better we know Jesus, the easier it becomes to lift Him higher.

Second – **Deny yourself more!**

Third – **Lift others up to Jesus!**