

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Surprised by Suffering* (Matthew 16:21-28)

**Summary:** We follow a crucified Christ. So expect the Christian life to be hard. But know it will be worth it.

### **Follow A Crucified Christ:**

#### **1. A Surprising Kind of Christ – a Suffering King (vv. 20-23)**

- What did you falsely expect about living the Christian life?
- Read verses 21-22. Hearing Jesus' predictions, why did Peter respond as he did?
- What circumstance is in your life that feels like it couldn't possibly be God's will. Discuss.
- It seemed to Peter that Christ's death couldn't be God's will, and so he rebuked Jesus for predicting it. How is Jesus' response to Peter a caution to us when we feel (and thus decide in our hearts) that our circumstance shouldn't be God's will?

#### **2. A Surprising Call to Follow – A Call to Suffer (vv. 24-28)**

- There are not two paths of Christianity. Everyone must deny their own way and follow (lit. "be following") Christ. How do we keep this truth in the forefront of our minds?
- Think about your prayer life. What percentage of your prayers concern eternal, kingdom matters, or are they all about temporal things?

### **Four reasons why it is worth it:**

1. Because Christ alone can save your soul (v. 25).
2. Christ knows the value of your soul (v. 26) See Psalm 49:7-8. How much did it cost God to save your soul?
3. Christ will judge your life (v. 27) If you knew Jesus was coming tomorrow, what would you change about your life today?
4. Christ confirms His coming glory (v. 28).
  - Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. How frequently do you read His Word? Meditate on it? Memorize it?
  - Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Thinking of this discussion, what have you realized may be something you treasure more than God's will?
  - What changes can you make to wisely redirect your will toward His Kingdom?