

**CCF's Mission is to be and make disciples of Jesus
who love God, and others to HIS glory.**

- Has the Lord pointed out backwards seeming path? God will lead through places, allow things we don't see as necessary.
- Will you remember Who He is, where He willingly went, trusting that His ways are perfect, higher? Read Isaiah 55:6-11; Romans 12:1-2
- Peter later said don't be socked by suffering. Mull over 1 Peter 4:12, 13. Do you have Romans 8:28 hidden in your heart?

"Here's who I am, and where I am heading.

Will you follow? Even unto death?
Want to save your life? You lose.
Willing to lose it? You'll save it."

- How does this remind you of Matthew 13:44-46? Yes, read it!
- What all are we promised in Matthew 10:24-39?
- Are you faithfully following Him? Read Hebrews 12:1-7

Matters for Prayer:

For yourself, in light of this passage:

For others:

A Discipleship tool from
Christ Community Fellowship (an EFCA)
Sarver, PA—www.ccffriends.org

**Jesus' Disciples Accept,
Embrace His Path, Plans. Period!**

- ❖ **Be careful when you are certain that** "your God would never . . ."
- ❖ **When we dictate the path God must take us on**, we end up instead following Peter—from being a star student to Satanic stumbling block.
- ❖ **Jesus's disciples stand ready to follow Him** to places we could never imagine. Listen in on this amped up exchange between Jesus and Peter from Matthew 16:

21 From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day.
22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned and told Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you're not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. 26 For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." **(Matthew 16:21-28—CSB)**

“Who Is This Guy?” Jesus is: (vs. 16, 17)

1. God’s Christ: Uniquely Anointed Sent Savior
2. The Son of The Living God
3. A Divinely-Bestowed Blessing to Know (vs. 17)

What’s His Mission? (vs. 18-21)

To Develop a People, “Called-Out” Ones, His Church

1. Built On Him! THE ROCK, Foundation (1 Peter 2:5-7)
2. Using Foundational People—cf. Ephesians 2:19-21
“Peter, Apostles, His Word (1 Corinthians 3:9-11; 12:28)
3. AND Via His Empowered, Unconquerable ἐκκλησία
You, Us, His (Acts 1:8, 9; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 John 4:4)
4. In His Perfect Time and Way (vs. 20, 21; 26:45)

Great!What’s His Plan, His Path Forward?

Follow Him Wherever He Leads(vs. 21-28)

Get a Life: Lose it, Live it for Him!

1. **The Cross Precedes the Crown: His, Ours (vs. 21)**
“From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary:
to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things—**of all places!**
from the elders, chief priests, and scribes—**from who?**
be killed and be raised the third day—*sorry . . . what!?*
 - Not a New Message: Isaiah 53; Psalm 16
 - Not a Man-made Message: Matthew 20:20-28; Acts 1:1-10
2. **Put Away Selfish, Seemingly Spiritual Expectations (vs. 22)**
After being commended for acing Jesus’s pop quiz—“who am I?”—Peter rebukes Jesus for His proposed, preposterous seeming plan.
“You may be God’s Christ and Son, but this idea of going to Jerusalem to face torture and death . . . What does that have to do with building Your Kingdom and Church? NOT going to happen on my watch. How can THAT be in the cards for God’s long-awaited Savior!?”

Yes, Peter, we understand . . . BUT

Never rebuke the Lord with a version of:

“Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!” (vs. 22)

What does Jesus think of our knowing better than Him? (vs. 23)

In league with the Adversary (Acts 5)

Make yourself a Demonic distraction (1 Peter 5:1-8)

May seem pious, but is self-serving (Acts 10)

3. For True Life, Faithfully Follow Jesus, Even to Death

Jesus STILL says to His Disciples: (vs. 24)

“If anyone wants to follow after me:

- Say NO to self: “not my will, but . . . (Titus 2:11-15)
- Stay prepared to die for Him (Colossians 3; Galatians 5; Ephesians 5)
- Get behind, and go wherever He goes (1 John 2:6)

Gaining Real Life Requires Submitting to Him, His Will

- Fighting Him is futile, follow Him to find life (vs. 25)
- Comparatively, all other gains are losses (vs. 26; Luke 12:14-26)
- He will ultimately reward His Disciples (vs. 27, 28)

“Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

(from The Message—Matthew 16:24-26)