



On the road to Emmaus.

THE STORY: ISA 53:1-12

There is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus; but there was first a cost to being our Savior. This passage gives perhaps the clearest portrayal of the Messiah in the Old Testament. He was not attractive; he would be rejected by his own (Joh 1.11). He bore our griefs and sorrows; he was pierced for our sins (1Cor 15.3); he was chastised on our behalf to bring us peace with God (Rom 5.1), and healing in our soul (1Pet 2.24). God laid all our sins on him, as if he were the sinner (1Pet 3.18). He was oppressed and afflicted for it, and yet he didn't complain (Ac 8.32). He was led to his death and buried with the wicked, though he did nothing wrong (2Cor 5.21). God's will was to crush him as an offering for our guilt. Even so, he would see his [spiritual] offspring, and prolong his days [to eternity]. God's will prospers in his hand, as all things are put under his rule (Eph 1.20-21). God gave him a portion with kings, because he poured out his soul unto death (Joh 19.30), making intercession for every transgressor given to him by God (Joh 6.39; 17.9).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was it *necessary* for Jesus to die in our place, and for us to have faith in him? (Eph 2.8-9; Rom 3.20; Rom 1.17, Rom 4.16; 2Cor 4.15 – *it is all to God's glory*)

Why was Jesus willing to die for you? (Joh 10.11; 15.13; 1Joh 3.16; *he loves you*)

PRAY:

Praise God that He sent Jesus to take your place in order to fulfill the law, and to pay the penalty for your sin, so that you would be with God forevermore.

Our mission at Hope Chapel:

*To bring glory to God
Through the transforming of lives
By the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

www.hopechapelcs.org



*building children into their parents...
... and families into the gospel.*

GET INTO The STORY

LIFE OF CHRIST • LESSON 16

JESUS DEFINES DISCIPLESHIP

There is a cost to being a disciple of Jesus.



Revelation of Jesus as the Christ

THE STORY: MAT 16:13-17

After the miracle of feeding the 5000, Jesus and his disciples came to the district of Caesarea Philippi, near Mount Hermon (Psa 133.3), north of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus asked them who people were saying that the *Son of Man* is. This is a curious question, because he doesn't refer to himself directly. There are several answers. Some suggest that John the Baptist has risen from the grave (e.g. Herod, Mk 6.14). Others believe Elijah has risen from the grave (Mal 4.5); others believe Jeremiah has risen from the grave (Jer 1.5), or another prophet (e.g. Ezek 2.3). Then Jesus asks the question that each of us must answer: "Who do **you** say I am?" Jesus identified himself as the *Son of Man*, our representative before God (Rom 8.34). Now Peter reveals the rest of Jesus' identity: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," sent by God as His representative to man (Joh 12.49). How did Peter know this? How do any of us know this? Jesus says that flesh and blood cannot reveal it; it does not come by our own intellect or insight. "But my Father who is in heaven" reveals to us that Jesus is the Christ, our Messiah, the Anointed One (Dan 9.25), who will save his people from their sins (Mat 1.21).

TALK ABOUT IT:

If someone asked you, "Who is Jesus?" what would you answer? Which verses might you quote? (e.g. Mat 16.16; Joh 1.29; Joh 4.25-26; 1Th 1.10, etc.)

Even though the Bible is clear about who Jesus is, and why he came, and what he accomplished on the cross, what enables someone to believe it? (Joh 1.12-13)

PRAY:

Thank God that He reveals to you by His grace that Jesus is the Christ, who has redeemed his people by his blood, and will raise them up at the last day.



Revelation of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

THE STORY: MAT 16:20-23

Jesus' disciples now understood very clearly who Jesus is: the long-awaited Christ. But there are events tied to the Christ that must take place at their appointed time. And so Jesus does two things: he tells his disciples to keep his identity secret; and he reveals to them what must take place for God's will to be fulfilled. He must go to Jerusalem where his enemies await him (Joh 7.1). He must suffer at their hands, and be killed. But although Jesus says it, it's not yet "revealed" to his disciples' understanding that he will rise from the dead after three days (Mk 9.31-32). It is so shocking, that Peter rejects the very idea of it. "This shall never happen to you!" It is God's will that it happen. It *must* happen if our sins are to be atoned for. Peter is actually tempting Jesus to turn from his duty, and to deny God, as if Peter was playing the role of Satan the tempter (Mat 4.3). Jesus rebukes Peter, because the temptation is real. Peter has his mind on the things of men, not the things of God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why are you not supposed to keep Jesus' identity secret? (Mat 28.18-20; Act 5.42, 17.3; the events described have taken place; we are commanded to proclaim it.)

What things might you not want to happen to you, things you don't want to do, that are necessary to fulfill God's will? (Act 9.16; Phil 1.29; 1Pet 1.6-7; suffering)

PRAY:

Ask God for strength to endure each test of your faith, that He might be glorified.



Where is the Gospel?

THE STORY: 1PET 2:19-25

It's vital to know that Jesus died for your sins to bring you to God (1Pet 3.18). But it is just as vital to know that Jesus laid down his life as an example to you. He calls you to respond to it by dying to self, taking up your cross, and following him (Luk 9.23). "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps." He did no wrong; nor should you. When he was attacked and abused, he didn't respond in kind; nor should you. When he suffered, he didn't threaten retaliation, but entrusted himself to God who judges righteously; you should do the same. He bore your sins so you might die to sin, and live a godly life. His wounds on the cross healed your heart

and your soul, and restored you to God. You were straying like a lost sheep, but he returned you to the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul – so respond gratefully.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What motivates you to testify that Jesus is your Lord and Savior? (Phil 2.5-8; 2Tim 1.8-10; gratefulness for what Christ has done for you, and given to you.)

What gives you confidence to withstand opposition when you proclaim Jesus? (Luk 21.12-15; Phil 2.13; Heb 13.6; 1Pe 2.9-10; you are in God's hands always.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for his great love for you, and for what he suffered for you; pledge to tell others about him each time he gives you an opportunity.



The cost and the reward of following Jesus

THE STORY: MAT 16:24-27

To be disciples of Jesus, we must not allow ourselves to dwell on the things of men, as Peter did momentarily, but on the things of God. But how? If we want to follow Jesus, what does he ask of us? (1) We must deny ourselves – our fleshly desires that compete against the will of God (1Pet 2.11). (2) We must take up our own cross, willingly suffering for Christ's sake (Luk 21.16-17) And (3) we must follow Jesus, imitating his way of life, obeying his commands, loving as he loved (Joh 15.12), serving as he served (Joh 13.15). If we prefer to save our life, rather than lose it for him, we will lose it eternally. But if we lose our life for him, we will find it eternally. If we gain the world, with all its glories and pleasures, what is that compared to eternal life in heaven with our Lord Jesus? Is it worth trading our soul for? The day will come, when Jesus returns, that he will repay us according to what we have done for his name's sake, even eternal life (Mk 10.28-30).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Jesus told us to count the cost of following him (Luk 14.27-28). What is it costing you now to follow Jesus? What opposition do you encounter? What cost would you honestly be willing to pay to follow Jesus if Christianity were illegal?

What rewards are you looking forward to that make the cost of following Jesus worthwhile to you? (e.g. Ps 23.6; 1Co 13.12; Phil 3.20-21; Col 3.23-24.)

PRAY:

Ask God to reveal to you the rewards that await you in heaven for following Jesus whole-heartedly; and for the courage to pay the cost.