

Matthew 26:20-25 English Standard Version (ESV)

20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. **21** And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” **22** And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” **23** He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. **24** The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” **25** Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Matthew 26:20-25. How did eleven of the Twelve respond to the news that one of them would betray Jesus? How did Judas respond?

What is significant about Judas’ response? Why do you think it is different that the others’?

Who is Jesus to you? Is He a good teacher (a rabbi) or is He Lord?

Matthew 7:21-27 English Standard Version (ESV)

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ **23** And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **26** And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27** And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Matthew 7:21-23. What do you think motivates those who do things *for* Jesus without a relationship with Him?

Read Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus refers to two types of people, the wise and the foolish. What are the differences between the two?

How is the foolish man in verse 26 related to the people in verses 22-23? Are they the same person or different people? Why do you think so?

Mark 10:17-31 English Standard Version (ESV)

17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **18** And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” **20** And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” **21** And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” **22** Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” **24** And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” **26** And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” **27** Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” **28** Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” **29** Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, **30** who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. **31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Mark 10:17-31. What does Jesus ask of the man in this story? How would you respond if Jesus asked you to sell everything, give it to the poor, and follow Him?

Does Jesus ask more of this man than He does of others? Why do you think so?

What promise does Jesus make in verses 29-30?

Luke 14:25-33 English Standard Version (ESV)

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, **26** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, **30** saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ **31** Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. **33** So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Luke 14:25-33. Is there a difference between “being saved” and being a disciple of Jesus? Why do you think so?

Did you ever count the cost before following Jesus? What has following Jesus cost you so far?

How do you respond to Jesus’ words in verse 26, 27, and 33? Do you think Jesus is asking too much?

Matthew 16:24-28 English Standard Version (ESV)

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. **28** Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read Matthew 16:24-28. What does Jesus mean in verse 24 when He calls us to take up our cross and follow Him?

What in your life is holding you back from following Jesus as a disciple or from following Him more closely? What do you need to deny or renounce in order to follow more obediently?