

Family Bible Study

8/30/2026

14. What does Jesus mean by “he will repay each person according to what he has done” (v27)? Is he supporting a view of *salvation by works*, that we can earn our way to heaven, as opposed to *salvation by grace*, where heaven is an undeserved gift?
15. Who do you think Matthew 16:28 means? Who is Jesus talking about?
16. Have you ever heard of a “beatific vision”? In Christian theology, the beatific vision is the direct revelation of God to a person. A person receiving the beatific vision reaches perfect salvation in its entirety, i.e. heaven. What does this have to do with v28?
17. Reflect on the following parable:

The story is told of a man who goes to Jesus wanting to trade out his cross for a better one. He tells the Lord, “I see the crosses others are carrying, and theirs are much more bearable than mine. Why does my cross have to be so cumbersome and heavy? Other people carry their cross with ease and mine is hindering my day-to-day life.” Jesus leads the man to a room full of crosses. Some are big and others are small. The man is instructed to put down his cross and then go select a new cross. The only stipulation was once he made his selection he could never complain or exchange his cross again. He searches for hours on end. The big crosses were just as he assumed— very large and very heavy. He knew there was no way he could ever carry those crosses. The smaller crosses were shockingly painful. Some had stickers that constantly stuck him in the shoulder or back reminding him of the beams he was bearing. Others were oddly shaped and rubbed the neck raw. Finally the man came upon a cross that was perfect for him. Not too big but not too little. There were no sharp prodding objects and it rested perfectly on his shoulder so it would not irritate him as he carried it. The man cried out, “Here it is Lord.” Jesus asked the man, “Are you sure? Remember there are no trades or exchanges and no more complaining about your cross.” The man replied, “I am sure. This is the perfect cross for me.” To which Jesus replied, “My child, that is the cross you carried in with you today.”



Matthew 16:21-28

cross

Take up your

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

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 lose 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.”

Questions to Wonder with Kids

Do you remember what happened in the Gospel story last week? Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is, and Simon Peter says he's the Messiah, the Son of God. Then Jesus tells them not to tell anyone. Now, Jesus is going to tell them something very important about what it means *to be the Messiah*, something they won't understand and won't like...

- What does Jesus tell the disciple that he is going to do?
- How do you suppose the disciples felt when they heard that?
- How did Peter react? Do you think Peter was right to act this way?
- What did Jesus say in response? How would you feel if Jesus said that to you?
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he talked about "setting your mind not on the things of God, but on the things of man"...
- In verse 24, Jesus explains that there are three things that are necessary to be his follower. What are those three things?
- I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"...
- What is more important—getting everything you can wish for or keeping your soul?
- What does Jesus say is going to happen when he comes back (verse 27)?
- If a friend asked you about what it means to be a Christian, how would you answer them, after reading this passage?

Questions for Adults

1. What has happened just before this passage? What preceded or set-up "from that time" (v21)?
2. From this point on, what will we be hearing a lot about from Jesus? What did Jesus *need* to do, according to this passage?
3. Why do you suppose Jesus felt he needed to tell His disciples these things ahead of time? (compare John 15:15)
4. What was the disciples' response? How did Simon Peter react? Why do you suppose Peter reacted that way?
5. What irony do you see in what he said, "God forbid it, *Lord*"?
6. How did Jesus respond to Peter? What did Jesus tell Peter he was doing?
7. What does it mean to be a "stumbling block" (v23)? How can we be a "stumbling block" to other's faith?
8. How does this compare/contrast to the passage we read last Sunday, where Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ? (Matthew 16:13-20)
9. When have you held on to your own ideas and insisted on your own way when you don't understand something? Have you ever contradicted God? What happened when you did that?
10. What three things does Jesus say are necessary to be his disciple?
11. What does it mean to "take up one's cross"? What is a "cross"? How did Romans use it? What does that have to do with the cross we are to "take up"?
12. Jesus says, "The person who wants to save his life/soul must lose it. The person who loses his life/soul for Jesus' sake will find it." How do you resolve this paradox?
13. In Matthew 16:27 we hear the first time we hear mention of the second "coming" of Jesus. What do we learn about it here?