

## 5—Finding Life

10/2/22

### INTRO:

#### I. → **Matthew 16:24-27**

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever **wants to** be my disciple must **deny themselves** and **take up their cross** and **follow me**.

→ 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

→ 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."

### BODY:

#### I. **The Way of Denial**

25 "**For** whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me **will find it.**"

A. The more we grasp at life the more it slips away.

##### 1) **Philippians 2:5-7**

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:  
Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God  
something **to be grasped**,  
but made himself nothing,  
taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.*

##### 2) **REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY**

B. The world will never understand the freedom of self-denial.

1) **Titus 2:11-12**

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.*

2) "Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life."—*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*

## II. **The Way of the Cross**

26 "[**For**] what good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their [life]? Or what can anyone give in **exchange** for their [life]?"

A. The cross has the power to set us free from ourselves.

1) Grk (*psuché*) fundamental sense of one's being

2) **1 Corinthians 1:18-19**

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

3) **REFRAMING THE CROSS AFTER JESUS DIED**

4) "If Jesus had been killed twenty years ago, Catholic school children would be wearing little electric chairs around their necks instead of crosses."—*Lenny Bruce*

B. We will never find life unless we are willing to pay the price.

1) **1 Timothy 6:18-19**

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

2) Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in event of success.—  
*Ernest Shackelton Ad*

### III. The Way of Reward

27 *“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to what they have done.”*

A. If you live like no one else, you will live like no one else.

1) **1 Peter 4:4-5**

*They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

2) WILLAIM WALLACE—“ONE MORE CHANCE”

B. When we follow Christ we always get back more than we put in.

1) **Matthew 19:29-30**

*And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*

2) LOOKING BACK ON 28 YEARS

## **OTHER SCRIPTURES:**

Psalms 62:12

“You reward everyone according to what they have done.”

Luke 12:20

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

Luke 12:33

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

Colossians 3:2-4

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Revelation 12:11

They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony;  
they did not love their lives so much  
as to shrink from death.