

Sermon: Take Up Your Cross
Series: *Pictures of Disciple-Making*

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-28
Date: June 27, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What truths does this passage teach us about God's Messiah?

2) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Have you ever faced something that didn't live up to your expectation (job, relationship, vacation, house)?

b) Jesus asked his disciples "who do you say that I am?" How would you answer this same question?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Why must Jesus be more than just a prophet?

b) The cross is a stumbling block (hindrance). In what way was the cross a stumbling block to you before you received Christ? What about now – is the cross a stumbling block to you in any way?

APPLICATION

a) Jesus promised that he would build his church. Do you believe that nothing can stop God's plan to build the church? Does your commitment to the local church reflect this?

b) What would it look like for you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus? What specifically might need to change in your life?

FIGHTER VERSES: Matthew 28:18-20.

PRAYER

- Praise God for the cross of Christ.
- Repent of anything that keeps you from denying yourself and following Jesus.
- Ask God to help you to take up your cross each day.