

## What Good Will it be for Someone to Gain the Whole World, Yet Forfeit Their Soul?

### *Main Bible Verse:*

(Matthew 16:24-26) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 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?"

### *Summary:*

#### Matthew 16:24

- We must not follow our own feelings because they may not be the facts, but we must go after God.
- What God creates is very different than what we feel, so we must follow Him well.
  - We must not do things by feeling but deny ourselves and take up the cross for this is the only way for us to follow Jesus.
  - It is harder for people with great knowledge to understand how to deny themselves.
- When we come to church, we must learn to deny ourselves.
  - Denying ourselves is:
    - Not retaliating
    - Not judging or criticizing
    - Doing all things for God
  - Only when we are willing to deny ourselves will our man in Christ grow.

#### John 3:1-3

- A pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council, asked Jesus how to enter into the kingdom of heaven late at night.
  - Jesus taught him that they can only see the kingdom of heaven when they are born again within Christ.
- Taking this into account we must be born again in Jesus to grow our man in Christ.
  - This man in Christ within us will tell us what we need to do.
  - What is being reborn?
    - It is to deny ourselves to worship in spirit and truth, and the man in Christ within us is reborn.
      - When we do this everything will go well for us.
    - The man in Christ will not only be reborn, but he will also give us the mysteries of God and teach us the direction of God.
    - Everything we do we will be by God's instruction and method.
  - Without the man in Christ being born again, we will do things by our feelings, and we will find failures.
  - We must not forget to read the Bible and grow our man in Christ within us.
    - No matter what we are doing, we must do things by our man in Christ and not our own feelings.
    - The reason the pharisee went to see Jesus late at night was because of his fear of what other people would think of him, so Jesus especially taught him to put down his feelings.
- If we are not born again and we want to do everything by ourselves, we will suffer greatly.
- If we walk with Jesus and deny ourselves, Jesus will do everything for us.
  - Before we do anything, we must admit that we cannot do anything, but Jesus can do it for us.
  - Everything we do is not for ourselves, but everything is for God.

- Being reborn means that we are not ourselves anymore, but we live by the man in Christ within us.
  - We will receive the new creations and strength from God.
- If we do not understand the importance of denying ourselves and take advantage of others, the man in Christ within us will not grow.
  - When people attack us, we must not only forgive them, but we must also bless them and pray for them and the man in Christ within us will grow.

**Matthew 16:25 | John 14:6**

- If one tries to salvage their own business, marriage, or health or create things for themselves, they will only create more burdens, bondage, and disappointment for themselves.
- If we want to help someone, we must help them to the end.
  - This means that we must help them into a life of Christ.
    - To do this, we must help them to grow their man in Christ until they take Jesus as their way truth and life.
    - When we take Jesus as our way, truth, and life, our lives will be filled with God's miracles and creation, and everything we do will prosper.
- As long as we follow God's direction and method, we will not need to worry about difficulties and obstacles because we have God's miracles.
  - When we do everything for God by denying ourselves, picking up the cross, and following Jesus, everything we do will prosper.

**Matthew 16:26**

- Our lives are more precious than the entire world.
  - Jesus died on the cross to save us.
  - Although we are not worthy, Jesus sacrificed his life because he loves us.

**Psalms 103:19 | John 18:6**

- We must deny ourselves and let Jesus rule over us.
- When we do this, Jesus will help us and tell us what we need to do.
- We must not be afraid to deny ourselves and back off when we are being suppressed.
  - When we realize that we have no more room to back off, Jesus' miracles will come upon us, and He will prepare a new and living way for us because His kingdom rules over all.
- We must not be afraid to come to church and step out in faith to fall before Jesus' "I am He."
  - When we put down our own will and step out before God, the man in Christ will be born and we will enter into the new and living way of Christ.
- The reborn life of our man in Christ is God's plan for our successful life.