



## Sunday 27th August 2017

Danny Hunt

Peter confesses Christ and learns about the cross

Matthew 16:13-26

Danny spoke today on some amazing, yet challenging verses from Matthew's gospel. Start today by reading over Matthew 16:13-26 as we look at these verses in the context of Revelation, Responsibility and Reversal.

### **Revelation**

Peter had a revelation of who Jesus is. Verse 15 asks bluntly "But what about you? Who do you say I am?"

- By the grace of God, how was Jesus revealed to you? (For example, through the witness of another? Through a dream or vision? Through the living Word?)
- Who was it that you first declared Jesus to be? Has that changed over time? (for example - Jesus the Saviour..now Jesus the Guide?)
- Have you had a recent or renewed revelation of Jesus in your life?
- How do you think that our world sees Jesus today?
- How can we influence (in a positive or negative way) how the world sees Jesus?
- For further reading on revelation read Jeremiah 33:1-3, Ephesians 3:1-6

### **Responsibility**

Matthew 16:18 declares that Peter is the 'rock' on which the church will be built – and that nothing can overcome it. As followers of Jesus we have been given power by the Holy Spirit, to be witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8) – an awesome privilege and responsibility.

- Are you living out your responsibility to make Christ known?
- Do you think there is more you should be doing to live out this responsibility?
- What holds you back from this?

### **Reversal**

After Peter is affirmed as the 'rock' this passage takes an unexpected turn as Jesus looks



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towards Jerusalem and the suffering that will take place there. Peter is chastised for not believing what Jesus says about his persecution and death. As we read in Matthew 16:24-26, Jesus has challenging words to say about trying to save our life as opposed to losing it for him; and about the cost of trying to gain the whole world.

- How would you describe these verses in a way that makes sense to a new believer? That losing your life for Jesus is the way to find life..
- When have you made decisions to lose your life to find it in Christ? What was the result?
- Have you found yourself trying to gain the world? To have everything and fit a bit of 'soul' in what is left over?
- Is Jesus calling you to take up a particular 'cross' right now?

Danny shared this interesting thought on 'cost' - although the entry to follow Jesus is free (Jesus has paid the price by his death), the annual subscription costs everything you have. This life means denying yourself; saying no to anyone or anything that is opposed to Jesus.

Danny reminded us that satan will try to interfere and influence us when it comes to matters of cost. When we read God's word and it challenges and changes us, satan will try to get in our ears and lead us astray.

- Do we put up borders and boundaries on how far we will go for Jesus?
- Are we willing to give up our 'rights' or what we want to follow and obey him?
- Read the following verses and discuss how they challenge you on costly discipleship: Hebrews 11:24-26, Acts 21:13, Philipians 3:7-11, Galatians 2:20

Let's end by reflecting on the words of martyred missionary Jim Elliot - He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.