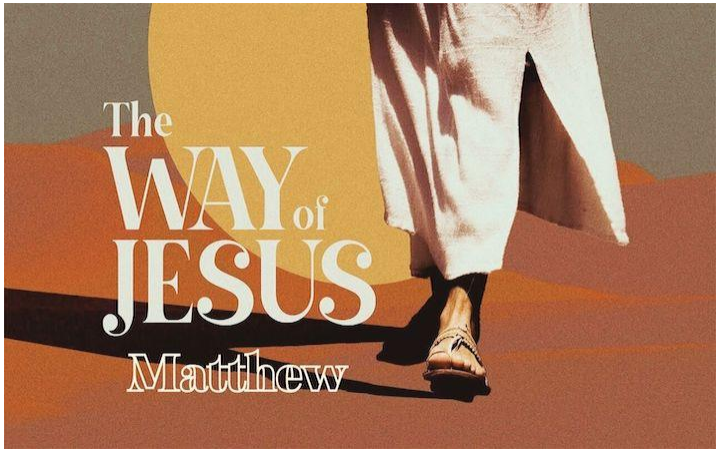


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for September 3, 2023:
The Way of Jesus - Matthew: Suffering



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion
with CGS Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- As you look around at our community today, what are some ways that we only have in mind the concerns of man? Can you point to anything that has struck you as being focused on the concerns of God?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

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.

28 "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Matthew 16:21-28

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What does Jesus reveal to His disciples in Matthew 16:21 regarding His future suffering, death, and resurrection? How do their reactions reflect their understanding of His mission?
- Why does Peter rebuke Jesus in Matthew 16:22 when Jesus speaks of His impending suffering and death? How does Jesus' response highlight the conflict between human perspective and God's plan?
- In Matthew 16:24, Jesus calls for His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. What do these instructions signify in the context of discipleship? How might they challenge the common notions of success and comfort?
- How does Matthew 16:25 emphasize the paradox of gaining life by losing it for Christ's sake? What does this concept teach us about the priorities and values of the Kingdom of God?

- o Jesus mentions the profit and loss metaphor in Matthew 16:26. How does this metaphor emphasize the temporary nature of worldly gain compared to the eternal value of one's soul? What does it mean to forfeit one's soul?
- o Explore the concept of the Son of Man coming in His glory with His angels, as mentioned in Matthew 16:27. How does this connect to Jesus' earlier statement about taking up the cross and the implications of living for Him?
- o Consider the statement in Matthew 16:28 where Jesus says, "There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." What might this statement refer to, and how is it fulfilled?
- o Compare the ideas presented in Matthew 16:24-28 with other passages where Jesus teaches about discipleship and the cost of following Him. How do these teachings collectively shape our understanding of what it means to be a disciple?
- o Reflect on the tension between self-preservation and self-sacrifice as highlighted in Matthew 16:24-26. How can believers strike a balance between taking care of themselves and fully surrendering to God's will?

- **SERVE** *others*

Just as Jesus foretold His own suffering and death for the greater good, we too are called to make sacrifices for the betterment of those around us. It is through selflessness that we find the essence of true service—a service driven not by personal gain, but by genuine care and compassion for others. How can you show genuine compassion for this week?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**

Loving God, in this passage of Matthew's gospel, Jesus teaches us about the cost of discipleship and the significance of taking up our cross to follow Him. Help us, Lord, to grasp the profound truth that true life is found in losing it for your sake. Grant us the courage to deny ourselves, embrace sacrifice, and prioritize your will above all else.

Just as Peter struggled to understand this lesson, we too often cling to our own desires and comforts. Open our hearts to accept the challenges and trials that come with following you faithfully. Let us find strength in the promise that those who lose their lives for your sake will find true and everlasting life in your presence.

Guide us, O Lord, to see beyond the temporary and focus on the eternal. May our actions and choices reflect our commitment to you, even when it requires letting go of our own plans. As we journey through life, help us carry our cross with determination and trust, knowing that you are always with us. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.