

# NOTES & QUESTIONS

## LOSE YOUR LIFE TO SAVE YOUR LIFE

CLAYTON KEENON | AUGUST 5 & 6, 2023

MATTHEW 16:13-28

Why would you ever deny yourself? (Matthew 16:24)

Because of who \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 16:13-16)

Because of what \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 16:17-18)

Because of how \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 16:21-23)

You will \_\_\_\_\_. Only

Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 16:25-26)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. Describe a time when you sacrificed something. What made it worth the sacrifice? (If you can't think of something, think of another specific person who sacrificed something for a person or cause. Why do you think they thought it was worth it?)
  2. Read Matthew 16:13-28 out loud. Give the group a few minutes to mark up the passage with observations (repeated words/ideas, striking details, truths/titles about God, things that raise questions, etc.) or jot them down on a separate paper. Have each person share one of their observations and why they noted it.
  3. What does it mean to "take up your cross" (Matthew 16:24)? Give some examples of what it might look like. How is that different from general hardships in life?
  4. In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asks a pointed question. Why is this important for each person to answer? What are some reasons people avoid answering it?
  5. What does it mean for Jesus to be "the Messiah" (Matthew 16:16)? Why was this a big deal for Peter to say and Jesus to affirm?
  6. According to Matthew 16:18, Jesus is building his church. What is the church? Why is the church important to Jesus? If the church is important to Jesus, what implications does that have for us?
  7. Why did Peter object so strongly to Jesus in Matthew 16:22? Why did Jesus react even stronger to Peter in Matthew 16:23?
  8. What about who Jesus is, what he is building, and how he paid for it would make someone willing to "deny themselves...take up their cross and follow" Jesus, even if that means losing their life?
  9. Finish Clayton's statement from the sermon, "You will give..." How does this change your perspective on Matthew 16:24-26?
  10. In what practical ways do you need to "deny yourself and take up your cross" today? How can the rest of us pray for you and keep you accountable for that?
- PRAYER PROMPT: Pray for persecuted Christians around the world where "taking up your cross" and "losing your life" is literal. If you want specific things to pray about, try checking out [icommittoprayer.com](http://icommittoprayer.com).