

## Mission Impossible Matthew 16:21-27



### Mission Impossible

#### 1. Mission Impossible is my responsibility

Last week we learned from Matthew 28:16-20 that every believer is called by God to an impossible mission; make disciples.

We also learned that to fulfill this mission I must have a conviction that the mission is my personal responsibility. (Matthew 28:16-20)

The Power of Doubling  
Every Year



God is calling you to be an intentional leader in this picture.

#### 2. Mission Impossible will cost me

Background to this story

After Jesus called men to be His disciples, He began to prepare them for their mission. A great part of their preparation was He told them what they would suffer and how they should respond.

- He told them they would be persecuted
- He told them they would be reviled
- He told them they would be rejected by members of their family
- He told them they would be arrested and scourged

As Jesus neared the end of His time with His disciples, He prepared them to die for following Him. This is where our story begins.

Matthew 16:21-27

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

NKJV

How does what Jesus told His disciples relate to me?

I am 63 years old. I have been a Christian for 46 of those 63 years. When I was a young Christian, I remember reading these stories and thinking, it is going to really cost me to be a Christian. I heard sermons on the cost of discipleship and each time I anticipated that at some point I could experience everything Jesus told His disciples they would experience.

Here I am 46 years later, and I cannot say that I have ever experienced what Jesus said His disciples would experience.

I do not think that I have ever suffered legitimate persecution.

- I have never been reviled for being a Christian.
- I have never been rejected by my family for being a Christian.
- I have never been arrested and scourged for being a Christian.
- I have never felt that my life was in jeopardy for being a Christian.

I have suffered for being a human being as we all suffer but I cannot say that I have ever suffered legitimate persecution for being a Christian.

There were other costs that Jesus talked about to His disciples that I have never experienced.

- I have always had a place to lay my head.

- I have never missed a funeral of a loved one because I was a disciple of Jesus.
- I have never had to give up everything I own and give it to the poor.

I have heard some preachers say that to become a Christian you must deny myself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. I have heard preachers used these verses to say that before you become a Christian, you need to count the cost. I disagree.

The only cost that anyone had to pay for me to become a Christian is the cost that Jesus paid. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)

I have heard some preachers say that the cost of being a disciple of Jesus is the spiritual disciplines like having personal devotions and attending church services. They say that denying yourself and taking up your cross is having a quiet time and worshiping with other Christians. I disagree.

I consider these spiritual disciplines to be spiritual delights. Because I am a child of God, I get to meet with God and pray and read His Word. I get to worship with God's people. Don't consider this to be a cost to me.

I have heard some preachers say that the cost of being a disciple of Jesus is giving up sin. They say that when Jesus said deny yourself and take up your cross, He was talking about giving up sin. I disagree.

I have found it cost me to live in sin. Giving up sin is a blessing.

How does what Jesus told His disciples relate to me?

To make disciples of Jesus I must deny myself and take up my cross.

Denying myself and taking up my cross means giving up my time, my money, my home, and my friendships to make disciples.

I am currently personally discipling 13 men to be disciples of Jesus. My goal with each one of these men is to see them make disciples that make disciples.

It requires 7 scheduled meetings each week to get with all these men. They cannot all meet together at the same time. Each meeting is centered around

God's Word and what is going on in their lives. Each meeting lasts between one to one and one-half hours. I meet with 6 of these 13 men at least twice a week. I am in contact with 9 of the 13 men every day by phone or text.

My ultimate goal in each and every meeting or conversation is to equip these men to disciple others. I remind these men frequently that this is our purpose for meeting. I have a razor-sharp focus. I rarely miss a meeting.

I don't do this for money. I do a lot of this in my free time.

If I was not discipling these men, I do not think I could relate to what Jesus said about the cost of discipleship.

Why do I do this?

- I believe it is my responsibility.
- I love Jesus and I want to see the Kingdom of God expand on the earth.
- I love people.
- I find my meaning in life when I am discipling others.

Jesus told His disciples they would find their life  
Since the fall of man, mankind has searched for the meaning of life. This search has led many people to adopt a cause to live for.

The cause that Jesus wanted His disciples to adopt was His mission. He promised them that if they sacrificed their life for His mission they would find their meaning in life.

- I believe I will be rewarded by Jesus when He comes.

Since the fall of man, mankind has searched for wealth. This search has led many people to pursue the wealth of this world.

The wealth that Jesus said His disciples would receive was His reward. He promised them that if they sacrificed their life for the souls of men they would receive His reward.

There is one decision that I did make as a youth that has been of great benefit to making disciples.

I decided that I would be willing to die to make disciples.

Why it is important that I willing to give up my life to make disciples?

Jesus did not fear losing lesser things in this world because He was willing to die to fulfill His mission.

Jesus knew that if His disciples were willing die to fulfill their mission, they would overcome the fear of losing lesser things.

When you are willing to die to fulfill your mission, you will overcome the fear of losing the things of this world.

- Martin Luther
- Martin Luther King Junior
- Matt Mllls

The most courageous people in the world is the man or woman that loves their mission more than they love their own life.

These disciples of Jesus accomplished their mission.

Every apostle of Jesus was martyred except one.

They fulfilled their mission because they were willing to die to fulfill their mission.

The ways the disciples suffered to fulfill their mission is greater than what I have ever known and possibly much greater than what I will ever know.

But what Jesus told His disciples still applies to me and you.

To make disciples of Jesus I must give up my life; my time, my money, my home, and my friendships.

If I am willing to die to make disciples of Jesus I will give up these lesser things to fulfill my mission.

Am I willing?

Are you willing to die to fulfill the mission Jesus has for you?

When you are being like Jesus, you are being the best version of yourself.

Commitment

Lord Jesus, I will sacrifice my life for your Kingdom.

This commitment to fulfill your mission is not a one-time commitment.

Jesus taught His disciples to take up their cross daily. (Luke 9:23)

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, thy kingdom come, thy will be done.  
(Matthew 6:10)

Paul said I die daily. (1 Cor. 15:31)

Lord Jesus, I will sacrifice my life daily for your Kingdom.