

# IN HIS STEPS

## MATTHEW 16

Text:

Introduction:

(1 Peter 2:21) For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Many people want to become mature Christians instantly, they are impatient, unwilling to take the time and pay the price for necessary growth. To follow in

His steps require:

### **1. THE YEARNING**

(Matthew 16:24) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

A. Our desires largely determine our direction and destiny. If we follow Christ, we must desire to do His will completely and without compromise.

B. Many Christians want to hold onto God with one hand and the world and sin with the other. This is impossible. We cannot serve two masters.

(Matthew 6:24) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

C. To follow in Christ's steps we must want to please Him above all others, desire to do His work, and yearn to walk in His ways.

## **2. THE TURNING**

(Matthew 16:25) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

A. Many never go beyond the desire to follow Christ. They talk about His will, way, and work, but fail to practice doing what they should.

B. We must turn from self to Christ and receive His as Savior and Lord of our life through repentance and faith.

C. We need to surrender to Christ unreservedly. Like the apostle Paul, we must die daily if we are to follow in Christ's steps and live eternally.

(1 Corinthians 15:31) I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

### **3. THE LEARNING**

(Matthew 16:26) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

A. Many Christians seek for financial gain and possessions that wear out, rust, and decay. They need to realize that only spiritual gain is enduring.

(Matthew 6:19-21) Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: {20} But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: {21} For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

B. We must keep temporal things in a right perspective.

(Matthew 6:33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness; and all these things shall be  
added unto you.