

## **“The Way Of King’s Cross”**

### **The Gospel of St Matthew Chapter 16, verses 21-28**

**Study Sheet for week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

Introduction:- Earlier in verses 13 - 20 Jesus had asked His disciples, firstly, “Who do people say that I am?”, then secondly, “Who do you think that I am?”. Peter says, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*”. From this insight by Peter the mission of Jesus is spelt out. The cross would mean suffering, death and resurrection, not only for Jesus but for those who follow Him.

To follow Jesus means conflict:

No fight = No victory. No cross = No crown.

#### The Cross Means Suffering - verse 21

- 1) A person has just become a Christian. How would you explain that to follow Jesus means suffering?
- 2) Why do you think that the spiritual struggle is often absent from the contemporary Church, when it is a mark of authentic Christianity?
- 3) Mrs. Petrie was the nurse who was suspended after offering to pray for an elderly patient. How would you support and encourage someone known to you who was going through such trials?

#### The Cross Means Direction - verses 22 - 23

- 4) Peter, after confessing that Jesus was the Son of God, now wants to tell Him what to do. How often do we fall into this trap? Share how this happens from your own experience.
- 5) How easy it for us to lose sight of our calling to follow Jesus? What can we do to keep focused on Him?
- 6) There is no way we can be insulated from failure; to follow Jesus is a lifelong battle. Despite our failures how can we have victory in our daily life?

P.T.O

#### The Cross Means Following - verses 24 - 26

7) Discipleship means following Jesus. People often speak of illness or problems as “the cross they have to bear”. Do you think Jesus meant it in that way? How do you think Jesus meant it?

8) What does it mean in practical terms “to save your life and lose it” and “to lose your life for Jesus and find it”?

9) We are called as Christians to follow Jesus. In the light of this what do you think verse 26 means?

#### The Cross Means Glory - verses 27 - 28

10) Jesus encourages His disciples that despite suffering, pain and death, a day will come when we will be rewarded for what we have done for Christ. Does this mean we follow Jesus for what we will get in the end?

11) The last verse of the chapter is not speaking about the Second Coming but about vindication, says Tom Wright. Within 30 years of Jesus saying these words Christianity spread throughout the world. Do we expect to see Christianity grow in our country? What are the things that stop growth?

Notes: