

Group/Individual Study

Series: Questions Jesus Asked: "What can you give in exchange for your soul?"

Passages: Mt 16:21-27

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 11/19

1. Read Matthew 16:21-27. The passage begins with "From that time on..." Jesus began telling the disciples about His suffering, death, and resurrection. Take a look at the passage before this one. What was the "aha" the disciples made in the previous passage that seemed to trigger Jesus telling about the suffering in His future? How might suffering have "collided" with the disciple's picture of what Messiah was about?
2. On the surface Peter's concern to keep Jesus from suffering seems like a caring thing to do. Why do you think that Jesus responded as He did? How might Jesus' struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane shed light on this (Matthew 26:36-46)?
3. People who follow Jesus live with an eye on two different realms; the world we live in AND the eternity we long for.
  - Where in your life do you most feel the tension of the visible world pulling you in different directions than God's eternity does?
  - What habits or practices tend to help you bring the spiritual world and eternal concerns to the forefront of your awareness?
4. Jesus said in verse 25, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Explain how this is true in practical terms? Have you seen examples of people who: a) gained this world but seemed to lose the next; or b) people who seemed to have little in this world but are rich in spiritual terms?
5. Read verse 27. Gary likes to say, "The two days that matter most are 'this day' and 'that day.'" What does he mean by that? How do 'this day' and 'that day' relate?
6. Sometimes when we at PCC are talking about eternity, we run a rope all the way from one side of the sanctuary to the other. On this rope which is hundreds of feet long we put two pieces of blue tape a couple of inches apart. Have you ever seen this? What's the point we're making? How does this visual help you?