

14 November 2021: Matthew 16:21-28 – Spiritual Victory

Question 1: Have you seen a great military parade in person? If so, what emotions and impressions did it stir within you?

Ephesians 6:10-13 "...be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."

Question 2: Does anything surprise you about the spiritual battle described in these words from Ephesians above?

Sacrifice

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Question 3: Why is the fact that Jesus foretells his death important?

Hebrews 10:11-14 "And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

Question 4: What is unique about the sacrifice of Christ?

Conflict

Matthew 16:22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

Question 5: What do you learn from this encounter about Jesus or about ourselves?

Reward

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Question 6: Why is it important to recognise that following Christ brings great reward?

Question 7: What is the most important lesson which you are taking away from this passage?

A Prayer

Loving Lord, thank you for the realisation that sacrifice, conflict and reward are steps to spiritual victory, and that you call us to no untried path, just the way you have walked before, and walk with us now. Help us to fix our eyes on your coming glory, and live within the sacrifice and conflict of this present age, confident of our reward, strong in the Holy Spirit and looking at all times to Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.