



The Christ Must Die

WK 67 Mt. 16:21-28

WARM UP: *What are some of the things people do for love? How far would you go for someone you love? What would be too extreme?*

Pop culture glamorizes the things people are willing to do to show their love for someone and some of them seem pretty over the top. But in reality, it is the sacrificial things that one does behind the scenes that no one notices that often best expresses what love is all about. It is in the daily sacrifices of time, selfless acts of service, and the giving of oneself that true love is expressed and there is nothing glamorous about it.

It is the mom that prepares a meal, cleans the house, and makes sure that everyone has what they need after working from 9 to 5. It is the father that works a side job to make sure that ends meet instead of pursuing his hobbies after work in order to make sure that his family doesn't do without. It is the son or daughter that sees what needs to be done and does it without having to be asked or badgered. These are just some of the things people do for love, and you could probably add a few of your own to the list.

If we boiled love down to one tangible thing, what would it be? I believe it would be this. **True love does** and no one expressed it better than the one who gave everything he had and held nothing back... Jesus. For those who would be his disciples, he didn't just talk about what true love is. He showed us what true love does and set the example for us. So maybe we should ask ourselves,

What does it cost to follow Jesus? What does that actually look like in practical terms?

READ ABOUT IT: Matt. 16:21-28

1. *When Jesus told his disciples about what lay ahead of them in Jerusalem, how did that go over? What kind of Messiah were they expecting?*
2. *When Peter rebukes Jesus, do you think he was speaking for himself or for the group as a whole? Why?*
3. *How does Jesus respond to Peter's rebuke and insistence that this isn't going to happen? How do you think Peter felt when Jesus called him a stumbling block?*
4. *If you want to be a true disciple of Christ, what can you expect and what will it cost you?*
5. *What price would you put on spending eternity in heaven with God? What would you be willing to give?*
6. *What things tend to compete for your allegiance to Christ? What do you need to lay down?*
7. *What would it mean for you to deny yourself? Remember, true love does.*
8. *What would help you take the next step in your spiritual life?*