

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: March 5, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: St. Matthew 16: 21-28
Topic: The Church On Mission – Risking All	

This particular portion of scripture is preceded by Peter's inspired confession that '*Jesus Christ is Lord.*' The span of Jesus' ministry centered on the mission which he was sent to accomplish and the way Jesus went about fulfilling his mission raises the question... "which label best describes the church Jesus is pleased with: conservative or active?"



Verse 21 of the text focuses on the course that Jesus took.

- 21a: where he must go (Jerusalem)
- 21b: what he is to get (sufferings)
- 21c: when is the revelation of his glory (on the 3rd day, he would rise)

Jesus fully understood what he was sent to do and we also need to understand our mission. We need to know and understand the path that God has laid out for us to take and in so doing, follow-up by pursuing that path with passion. This requires focus on our part.

Verses 22-23 highlights how Jesus responded to his challengers.

- 22: the demonstration of Peter
- 23: the dismissal of Peter

We have to be careful with how we process advice and information that we are given, because even the noblest of intentions can be pitfall to our ministry. As best as possible we need to avoid pitfalls, which means that some council received has to be 'blocked.' This requires the forsaking of some things on our part.

Verses 24-26 shows Jesus' response to his charge.

- 24: requirement for the follower
- 25: rule (he who loses his life will find it)
- 26: rubbish: (what sense does it make to gain the world but lose your soul?)

We need to invest our all in what God has called us to and this involves each person being contributors to the mission of the church by 'bearing one's cross.'

Verse 28 is a reminder that a reward awaits those who diligently pursue the course that God has laid out for us. We should all be looking to God for compensation, not from man. Pursuing our mission requires action on our part. Christ was a man of action and he expects activism from the church, not cold conservatism. We should all confess ways in which we are more concerned about protecting things as they are rather than pursuing what Christ is calling us to do.