

February 4, 2024

Counter-Cultural

Pastor Brian Greenleaf



Matthew 16:21-27

We believe Jesus for _____. He is and for _____. He has done for us on the cross.

We cannot _____ what God is doing. We can only be for it or against it.

A part of Biblical discernment is separating _____ will from God's.

6 Great Paradoxes of the Bible

1. Find _____ through _____ it (Matthew 16:25, Matthew 10:39, Luke 9:23)
2. _____ through _____ (Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35)
3. _____ through _____ (Luke 14:11, James 4:10)
4. _____ through _____ (2 Corinthians 12:10)
5. _____ through _____ (John 8:32,36, Romans 6:18)
6. _____ through _____ (Luke 9:48)

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Sermon Talks

1. What caught your attention in this week's message? Was there something you had never heard before or something you had a question about?
2. Read verses 21-23 again. What Jesus was telling His disciples did not make sense, causing Peter to step in and assure Jesus that what He was saying would not happen.
 - How did Jesus respond to Peter and what did Jesus mean?
 - How do we, at times, get in the way of what God is doing? Can you think of a time in your life where this has happened?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said in verse 24, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"?
4. Go back and look at each of the six paradoxes we listed and discussed today. Read the Bible verses attached to each one and then answer the following questions.
 - What is the meaning of the paradox?
 - Why are they so counter-cultural?
 - How does the paradox relate to you?
 - If you have seen God teach you through one or more of these, explain what you have learned.
5. Verse 27 tells us that Jesus is coming again. He is coming as the judge when He will repay every man for his deeds.
 - Will you be ready?
 - What do you need to do to be ready?

Pray about it: Meditate on God's Word (Matthew 16:13-27) and this week's message.

Adoration: What can I praise God for in light of what this teaches me?

Confession: What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving: What can I thank God for in light of what he has done?

Supplication: What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?