

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for August 10, 1986

Winning By Losing
Matthew 16:24-28
Dale Whitehead

Introduction:

Health and prosperity, many Americans jump on the Jesus bandwagon for this reason. But the essence of Christianity is winning by losing. To follow after Jesus we must lose ourselves.

1. Deny Self:

Give up all reliance of whatever we are by nature and depend upon Christ alone for our salvation, deny our worthiness, worth, and self-righteousness. When we deny self we are declaring we are not living for self but for Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:15 and Galatians 2:20**).

2. Take up His cross:

Suffering that leads to death (**Hebrews 12:2**). The cross is a representative symbol of suffering and pain.

3. Follow Me:

What is the heart and soul of Christ's life, why did He come? To seek and save that which was lost.

Playing a game of pick and choose is not following Jesus.

Verse 25, will we be free of earthly problems? No, this is not what Christ is offering (**Matthew 16:26**).

Verse 26, Peace with God both now and forever, a relationship with God, our soul is provided for, eternal glory. **Revelation 21**, no more pain, sorrow or death.

How will we live? Short term or long term?

Positive impact now; peace, joy, love, patience.

Verse 27, There is a day of reckoning coming.

Verse 28, Jesus is giving to His disciples a glimpse of glory which is seen in **chapter 17**.