

An Unexpected Death

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 5, 2015 • Keith Bowers, Elder

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 16:24-27

- **What does following Christ really look like?**

Setting and Context

- **Where is Christ? What is going on?**
- **To whom is He speaking?**

Follower Life

- **What does it mean to “deny yourself” and “take up your cross” (verse 24)?**
 - o **Preconceived notions about becoming a Christian.**
 - o **Failure in the life a follower.**
 - o **Jesus Christ as Lord of my life.**

A Paradox

- **How do we find life while losing it (verses 25-26)?**
 - o **What’s wrong with “saving my life,” anyway?**
 - o **Finding real, lasting life.**

A Great Promise

- **The return of Christ and rewards (verse 27).**
 - o **The ultimate cost benefit analysis.**
 - o **Well placed hope and faith in the life of a follower.**
 - o **Eternal rewards.**