

So-called
YOUR LIFE

—Matthew 16:24-27

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

Aim Of This Lesson—

**To have us understand how much
Jesus wants us to be fully
committed disciples.**

It’s not about us.

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

Scripture text:

Matthew 16:24-27 niv

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

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Question?

- So, you want to follow Jesus?
- Are you sure?
 - What if it means you might have to give up something?
- Yeah, deny myself somethings, I can handle that.

WAIT, that is not what it says, is it? Let's go back to the text:

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

Matthew 16:24 niv

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

- Deny myself. Remember how Peter denied Jesus?
- Deny myself, it doesn't mean I'll just do without. It means “I don't even recognize me.”

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

To help us to be fully committed disciples and put it into action, Jesus gives us three helps:

1. We need *to lose the right thing.*
2. We need *to be a good judge of value.*
3. We need *to keep track of time.*

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

1. We need *to lose the right thing.*

Matthew 16:25 niv

25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

- **No matter who you are, no matter what choice you make, you’re going to lose something.**
 - **Lose your life for Christ—find real life in Him.**

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

1. We need *to lose the right thing.*

James 4:14 *niv*

...What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

II Corinthians 5:14 *niv*

¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

IT’S NOT YOUR LIFE!

I Corinthians 6:19-20 *niv*

¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

1. We need *to lose the right thing*.

Galatians 2:20 *niv*

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Being crucified
with Christ

- When it comes to our very lives, what the world calls “loss,” Jesus calls fulfilling our purpose.
- We must lose the Right Thing.

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

2. We need *to be a good judge of value.*

Matthew 16:26 *niv*

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

- **Envision two places in the passage—
(1) an execution and (2) A marketplace.**
- **Jesus wants us to consider what is truly valuable in life – and understand we’re not just speaking about this life here now, but about our eternal lives.**

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

2. We need *to be a good judge of value.*

- **When was the last time you “thanked God for your life”?** It is a precious gift.
- **God wants us to remember that the human soul is of immeasurable value.**

I Peter 1:18-19 *niv*

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

2. We need *to be a good judge of value.*

- What can a man give in exchange for his soul?**
- When we understand that we’re going to lose our life no matter what, and even before that our life is not our own anyway, it becomes a whole lot easier to hand it back to God, doesn’t it?**

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

3. We need *to keep track of time.*

Matthew 16:27 *niv*

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Take up your cross. Follow Him.

Daily.

Why?

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

3. We need *to keep track of time*.

- Why follow Jesus to Jerusalem and His death?
- There is a stark contrast between the earthly life of the suffering servant Jesus and the future state of the triumphant Jesus Who will come in glory to judge the earth.

Romans 8:18 *niv*

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

YOUR “*so-called*” LIFE

3. We need *to keep track of time*.

- This time we have here is limited, temporary, and hardly a dot on the great line that is our eternity.

Colossians 3:1-4 *niv*

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

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To help us to be fully committed disciples and put it into action, Jesus gives us three helps:

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2. We need *to be a good judge of value.*
3. We need *to keep track of time.*

The Plan of Salvation

Hear

Romans 10:13-17

Believe

John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6

Repent

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30

Confess

Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32

Baptism

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38



Touching Lives

How to Make a Request for Prayer or Baptism

PrayerRequests@whelesscoc.org



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