

Simpson World Missions Conference 2018

"At What Gain?"

(Matthew 16:13-27)

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. When you think of the Church and missions, what do you think of? How many people in an average church do you think are involved somehow in the work of world missions? What are some of the practical ways they can be involved?
2. In Matthew 16:18, Christ gives a glorious promise concerning the work of missions? What is this promise? By what human means will our Lord accomplish this purpose? See verses 15-18. What will unsuccessfully stand in opposition to our Lord in the accomplishment His mission?
3. There is a disagreement between Jesus and Peter in verses 21-23. What is this disagreement over? How could a similar conversation occur between Christians in the contemporary church concerning missions? What is Jesus telling us about the nature of His mission when He says, "He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things". Why is suffering necessary for the building of Christ's church?
4. From verse 24, do you think that the Lord allows room for two levels of involvement in the work of building His Church, those who kind of follow and those who really do follow? Why or why not? How does this directly speak to the issue of missions?
5. Christ gives three requirements in verse 24, for those who would come after Him. What are they and can you give a practical example of how each would be lived out? How do these relate to "losing our life" in verse 25?
6. In verse 26, the Lord uses financial terminology to focus on the use of our life as our investment for Him. Using our time, talent and treasure as a model, how can these temporal assets be used effectively for eternal purposes? Can you think of how you have seen God use these in your life to further His kingdom?
7. Ultimately verse 27 takes us to the throne of God at the end of time. As you kneel before Him, what will you say has been your role in missions and the building of His Church around the world?

I. The Glorious Promise

1. *Christ promises to* _____.
2. *in spite of the* _____.
3. *by the* _____.

II. At What Cost?

1. *The cost of* _____ *that will not be* _____.
2. *The cost of* _____ *that is not* _____.
3. *The cost of* _____ *that we will be* _____.

III. At What Gain?

1. *The gain of* _____.
2. *The gain of* _____.
3. *The gain of* _____.