

INTRODUCTION

- * Jesus had sent out His twelve Apostles to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God and had equipped them with power and authority over all demons and with the ability to cure diseases. He then took them aside to talk about their experiences, but they had been interrupted by the 5,000+ crowd. Jesus used the moment to teach the people, but also to teach His disciples regarding the necessity of faith by having the disciples feed the crowd with just five small loaves of bread and two small fish!
- * Today, we begin to see the conversation of Jesus and His disciples when He finally gets them away.
- * As a segue, at Family Camp we discussed - from the Shema - the connection between your faith and your actions. If you have a genuine faith in God, you will naturally have a genuine love for God. This genuine love for God will then lead to a genuine interaction with His Word. Jesus uses this same logical connection between what you believe and how you will act in His discussion with His disciples.

INSTRUCTION**I. THE I _____ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 18-20)****A. The O _____****B. The L _____ (cf. Matthew 16:13)****C. The Q _____**

1. THE OPINION OF THE WORLD:
2. THE OPINION OF THE DISCIPLES:

D. The A _____**II. THE D _____ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 21-22)****A. His Prophetic Proclamation****B. His Redemptive Purpose****III. THE E _____ OF THE MESSIAH (v. 23-27)****A. The C _____ (v. 23)**

1. DENY YOURSELF
2. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY
3. FOLLOW JESUS

B. The C _____ (v. 24-26)

1. WHOEVER DESIRES TO SAVE HIS LIFE Will Lose It; Whoever loses his life for Christ will save it!
2. WHAT PROFIT IS IT TO GAIN THE WORLD and lose his soul?
3. WHOEVER IS ASHAMED OF CHRIST and His words - Christ will be ashamed of when He comes (cf. Matt 10:28-33)

INTROSPECTION

- * Who is Jesus to you? What does your life reveal?
- * How are you doing at "denying yourself" and "taking up your cross daily"?
- * What is your goal in life? Are you seeking the expansion of God's Kingdom, or your own?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How far should we "deny" ourselves in following Christ? What are some practical illustrations and applications of this?