



# Sermon Discussion Guide




## “Following the King”

Matthew 16:21-28

Rev. Ray Cortese, February 14 & 15, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 16:21-28. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Has anyone ever told you, “get a life”? What are some of the ways our culture tells us we can “get a life”?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### THE KING’S MISSION

- 3 What is the difference between faux love and true love? How is Jesus’ love the true love that we need in order to thrive?
- 4 Forgiveness is never cheap – it always requires payment. What is the payment required in order for God to forgive us? How does forgiving others cost you?

## THE KING'S FOLLOWERS

- 4 *Renounce your right to self-fulfillment.* In what ways does the culture say to you, “You have a right to be happy”? Why will you never find true happiness by pursuing your own self-interest? Discuss the following quote by Malcom Muggeridge: “The happiest woman in the world is the woman who sweeps out her house to the glory of God.”
- 5 *Renounce your right to self-sovereignty.* What do we mean when we say that people want Jesus as their Savior, but not as their Lord? Discuss the following quote:

“I find in my heart a stubborn refusal to “submit” - that puts on boxing gloves. As I box with God, I know He’s going to win - I want Him to. But, I can’t seem to allow Him to govern me without a fight. I remember once when my heart was yelling out at him - over all my struggles. “You seem to think you can come in here and be any kind of Messiah you want! You never asked me what kind of Messiah I want you to be! You won’t compromise!” I knew as soon as I said it that Jesus was revealing my root problem with Him - He seems to want to run things - sort of like He knows He’s God. I truly wanted Him to come to me, in my extreme fear and grief - and ask me how He could help. Why does He want all? Why can’t He just leave me alone - and fix up my life? He asks for the one thing I struggle to give Him—my life.”

- 6 *Renounce your right to cynicism.* How have you seen God at work lately? What is the end of the story for the Christian? How does knowing the end of the story encourage us to keep on keeping on in this life?

## Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?