**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr November 26, 2023**

**What Does It Means To Follow Jesus?**

Matthew 16:21-28

**Key Truth:** Following Jesus Christ, requires self-denial and a daily process of continuing to keep Jesus in the driver’s seat of your life.

**Jesus Reveals His True Purpose:**

1. Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. Matthew 1:21-23

2. Peter refuses to let go of his plans for Jesus.

 A. Suffering wasn’t in the mind of Peter when it came to

 the Messiah. Isaiah 53:4-7

3. Jesus rebukes Peter for standing in the way of His Divine

 purpose.Isaiah 55:8-9

**Requirements For Following Jesus:**

1. Relinquishing your role as king of your life.

2. Accepting God’s will for your life.

3. Daily pursuing God’s purpose for your life by following

 Jesus Christ.

**Things We Learn About Following Jesus:**

1. Salvation is free, but discipleship is costly. Matthew 10:34-39

2. Suffering is normal. 2 Timothy 3:12-13, Philippians 1:29

3. A godly life is better than a successful life. Luke 12:15-21

4. Heaven will make everything worth it. Romans 8:18

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Don’t allow worldly aspirations to get in the way of salvation. Embrace the true Jesus by spending time in the Bible, in community with other disciples, and in prayer.

**Food for Thought:**

Read Matthew 16:24-26: In your own words, what did Jesus mean by, “take up his cross”? How would Jesus’ original hearers have reacted to that statement? What does this look like in our lives today?

Why is taking up one’s cross a necessary part of following Jesus?

Read Romans 12:1-2: What did Paul plead for with his fellow believers? What was the basis of his plea?

How is sacrificial living an act of worship? How does this worship differ from what we usually think of as worship?

It isn’t always just a matter of not wanting to deny ourselves to follow Jesus. It can also be a matter of not quite understanding how and what it takes. What insight and encouragement does God give us to continue to deny ourselves and to be willing to follow him?

Matthew 11:28-29

Galatians 2:20

Romans 8:5