

Smashing the Idol of Comfort

April 6, 2025 | Pastor Mike Foster
Matthew 16:21-28 | Return to Me

- **Like Peter, we are tempted to prefer a comfortable, conquering Jesus (vv. 21-23)**
- **Like Jesus, we are called to surrender and sacrifice (vv. 24-26)**
- **Like Jesus, we are And remember, King Jesus will be here soon! (vv. 27-28)**

FOR FURTHER ACTION/REFLECTION

Memorize Matthew 16:24 or Luke 9:23

Meditate on Matthew 16:21-28, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:1-14, Titus 2:1-12

Consider these resources:

bit.ly/TakeupyourCorss

bit.ly/DeepldolComfort

bit.ly/ComfortCravings1

bit.ly/LosetoSavelt

Counterfeit Gods by Keller

Gospel Treason by Bigney

Listen to “Give Us Clean Hands” – bit.ly/GiveusCleanHands

Listen to “Whatever it Costs” – bit.ly/WhateveritCosts

Listen to “Jesus Paid it All” – bit.ly/JesusPaiditAll2

or bit.ly/JesusPaiditAll3

Listen to the playlist of songs for the “Return to Me” series – [bit.ly/ ReturnToMeSongs](https://bit.ly/ReturnToMeSongs)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. What are some sources of comfort in your life that you enjoy as gifts from the Lord?
3. Read Matthew 16:21-22. Why do you think it is so difficult for Peter to accept Jesus’ statement about his suffering and death?
4. Read Matthew 16:24. Is there a difference between the general hardships of life and the “cross-bearing” Jesus calls us to here? Explain.
5. Read Matthew 11:28-30. How do you reconcile these verses with Matthew 16:24? How can followers of Jesus both carry a cross and find rest in the Christian life?
6. Read Matthew 16:25-26. Have you found it true in you Christian life that losing can be gaining? Explain.
7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Why is it important to remember that our sacrifice for Jesus is motivated by his love for us? What might be the long-term effects of being motivated by duty alone rather than love?
8. Describe a time when you stepped out of your comfort zone to trust and follow Jesus. What did God do? What did you learn?
9. Read Galatians 2:20. What are some practical ways a believer can allow “Christ to live in them”?
10. Is there something the Lord is asking you to deny of yourself at this time in order to more fully follow him?

