
Following Christ to the Resurrection

Part 8 – The Need to be Transformed into Our God
Breathed Identity



Matthew 16:21-26

Matthew 16:21a - NIV

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders,

Matthew 16:21b

**the chief priests and the teachers
of the law, and that he must be
killed and on the third day be
raised to life.**

Matthew 16:22

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Matthew 16:23

**Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”**

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and take
up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:26

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Background of the Text

Matthew 16:13 NLT

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

Matthew 16:14

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

Matthew 16:15

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:17

Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

Matthew 16:18

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:20

Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Background of the Text

- Simon has been following Jesus for about 2 years at this point.
- 1st time in Matthew, that someone other than the author calls Jesus the Christ; the Son of the Living God.

Background of the Text

- 1st time in Matthew, that Jesus calls Simon, son of John, Peter.
- This epic moment is the initiation and partial fulfillment of what Jesus predicted in John 1:40-42.

Peter the Rock

When Jesus said, upon THIS rock, he was referring to everything that Peter was and everything Peter embodied at that particular moment.

At that Moment

- **Peter the Rock was the blessed recipient of the revelation from God.**
- **Peter was the Rock who stepped forward and made the courageous confession of Jesus being the Messiah; the Son of the Living God.**

At that Moment

- **Peter the Rock was the representative spokesman for the group of disciples, leading them forward in the expression of their faith.**
- **Peter the Rock was correctly living out his God Breathed Identity.**



Your God Breathed Identity

The culmination of the unique ways in which God has created you to highlight specific attributes of His character and to fulfill His will. It is what makes you unique in the Kingdom of God. It is what makes you God's masterpiece.



Matthew 16:21a

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders,

Matthew 16:21b

**the chief priests and the teachers
of the law, and that he must be
killed and on the third day be
raised to life.**

Matthew 16:22

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Matthew 16:23

Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and take
up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:26

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Principle #1

Too often we allow our God Breathed Identity to become skewed or swayed by our lack of spiritual maturity, which is evidenced in things like selfishness, character issues, untransformed aspects of our heart, a critical spirit, etc.

Selfishness

Matthew 16:21a

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders,

Matthew 16:21b

**the chief priests and the teachers
of the law, and that he must be
killed and on the third day be
raised to life.**

Matthew 16:22

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Apostolic Selfishness

In Matthew 20:20-28 and Mark 10:35-45, the Apostles John and James ask Jesus to allow them to sit on Christ's right and left hand side when we are all in glory.

Character Issues

Matthew 16:22

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Apostolic Character Issues

**In Luke 9:46-48 and Luke 22:24-28,
the Apostles were arguing
amongst themselves regarding
who was the greatest amongst
them and about who would be
greatest amongst them in the
Kingdom of Heaven.**

Untransformed Aspects of the Heart

Apostolic Heart Issues

In Luke 9:51-55, Jesus rebukes the Apostles James and John for wanting to call down fire on a Samaritan village, because they did not welcome Jesus into their village.

A Critical Spirit

Apostolic Critical Spirit

In Matthew 19:13-14 and Mark 10:13-16, Jesus had to rebuke His disciples, because they rebuked and prevented parents from bringing their children to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and pray for them.

Etcetera

Principle #2

Your ability to successfully receive, grow into, and operate out of your God Breathed Identity is based on the fact that God loves you unconditionally and that God loves you too much to leave you how you are.

The story of Peter's life clearly illustrates for us God's unconditional love and His unparalleled forgiveness, mercy, and grace that is available to us in and through Jesus Christ.

Principle #3

Living out your God Breathed Identity requires an intimate relationship with God, properly discerning the voice of God, and surrendering to the transformative power of God.

Principle #4

The ability to consistently live out your God Breathed Identity requires continuous Holy Spirit empowered transformations of all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, and all your strength.

Matthew 16:23

Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”



Principle #5

Genuinely and obediently following Christ requires the highest cost imaginable but it also comes with the highest rewards possible, both in this life and for eternity.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and take
up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:26

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

psuche

- (a) the vital breath, breath of life,**
- (b) the human soul, (c) the soul as
the seat of affections and will,**
- (d) the self, (e) a human person,
an individual.**

The term *psuche* corresponds exactly to the Greek word *phággō* ("soul"). The soul is the direct aftermath of God breathing (blowing) His gift of life into a person, making them an ensouled being.

Following Christ to the Resurrection

Part 8 – The Need to be Transformed into Our God
Breathed Identity



Matthew 16:21-26