

“Stand By Me”

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-26 & John 14:6

Introduction:

I have a confession to make to you this morning. I'm a recovering Tool-Aholic. Its been 7 months since I last purchased a tool....a Bosch circular saw.

How many of you are interested in power tools?

-See all my boys raising their hands.....their good boys

Now how many of you could care less about power tools?

-Some might like:

-Laser tag

-Reading

-Riding bikes

-Running

-Work.....?

I was at a Christmas party probably 10 years ago and I will never forget hearing one particular conversation. One person started out talking about something interesting to them and as soon as the other person had a chance to speak they started talking about some new story that was totally unrelated to what the other person was saying. The interesting thing was when the first person got a chance they picked up with their original story and continued on. When all was said and done both parties were happy and seemed quite satisfied having absolutely no clue what the other person had said.

Sometimes it's easy to get carried away with what is important to us in this life.

How much more is it possible in the spiritual realm to look to our own interest instead of looking for what is important to God.

Read: Matthew 16:21-23

When we read this, we should be asking what is important to God. I have looked at this passage now for many years and I seem to find something new each time I look at it. From what I see as I look at verse 13 through the end of the chapter Jesus is giving a wonderful discourse on the kingdom of God.

-Since Adam and Eve were shut out of the Garden of Eden until the time of Christ, mankind had operated under the bondage of sin, held captive by the regulation of the Law and the lack of a redeemer.

-Do you remember Daniel's dream in Daniel chapter 7? From Daniels dream of the four sea beasts coming up out of the sea, we understand that the kingdoms of this world are only temporal but the kingdom of God is an unbreakable kingdom... one of grace and mercy.....a kingdom not of this world.

-One built upon the precious name and sacrifice of the Son of God.

-Whereby all men might be saved.

Its here in view of the wonderful kingdom of God being established that Jesus says in verse 21 that he must go to Jerusalem suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, killed and raised on the third day.

Prophets had prophesied about this very moment longing to understand the very things they were saying (1 Peter 1:10-12).

1 Peter 1:12 goes on to say that even angels longed to look into these things. I can just imagine the angles of heaven, bumping elbows as they looked out the heavenly window pains looking down saying to each other what in the world is He doing sending Jesus down there.

-The consummation of the ages was at hand.

-The cross is in view.

-The reconciliation of God and man are at hand.

What is important to God here?

The redemption of mankind unto himself through his son who would placed upon the throne of David forever fulfilling all prophecy.

It's at this point:

- Verse 22 that Peter says "Never Lord"..... "This shall never happen to you".
- You can just imagine Jesus' face.....WHAT?
- At this point that Jesus says to Peter (verse 23) get behind me Satan.
- You are a stumbling block to me

- You see Peter wasn't focused on what was important to God
- This allowed Satan to find a path for his work.
- How many times has this happened to us?

Transitional Statement:

- At this Jesus says in verse 24 "If anyone wishes to come after me..."
- that is if anyone wishes to stand by me in the Greek....
 - be in my company
 - be a part of me
- *3 things you must do**
- Remember it is a short time till the cross

Body:

I. Must Deny Self

1. When Jesus was before Caiaphas the High Priest.
 - Peter denied Jesus 3 times
 - What would have happened if he would have laid claim to Jesus
And not denied him?
 - Put your desires away
2. NT sign of covenant is baptism
 - Romans 6:4 Death burial resurrection
 - Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ"
3. There is a realm of conscience that exists outside oneself that has rewards of great proportion.
 - Paul tells us in Phil. 2:4 to put other peoples interest ahead of our own
 - In particular God's.
4. Denying self is to recognize God
 - To accept His sovereignty
 - To glorify Him
5. God shows Moses the promise land from Mount Nebo
 - Only after death is Moses seen with Jesus inside the promise land on the mount of transfiguration.
6. **People wrapped up in themselves usually make a very small package.**

II. Must Take up your cross

1. When Jesus fell beneath the cross on the Via Della Rosa no disciples were close to help
 - Jesus took up his work
 - burden
 - counted it joy
 - Eph 2:10 says “we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
 - Christianity isn’t a spectator sport like tennis
 - made of workers
2. John 13 we See Jesus gird himself with a towel and serve his disciples
3. Romans 12:1 says to offer your bodies as living sacrifices
 - You see this is an aroma well pleasing to God

***Matthew 10:38 “Anyone who doesn’t take his cross is not worthy of me.**

III. Must Follow Me

1. Our culture says following is wrong
2. Follow is to go in the same direction
 - Often up stream
 - Uncomfortable
3. Submission
 - yielding of our will to his
4. Ex. 33:1-3 Moses comes down from the mountain to idol worship
 - God tells Moses to leave this place and take these people.
 - God not to go with
 - Verse 15 Moses says if your not going don’t send me.
5. Ruth
 - 1:16, 17 where ever you go I will go
 - Where you stay I will stay
 - Your people will be my people
 - Your God will be my God
 - Where you die I will die

Conclusion:

- Are God's interests first in your life?
 - Have you truly yielded to God?
 - Is there something in your life that is denying Christ

- Are you doing the work that God prepared for you?
 - The work that was created just for you?

- Are you going in the Lord's direction

Read Verses 25-26

-Will you stand by him?

-Come as you have need as we stand and sing the song of invitation.