

## We Are Worthy of Love and Meaning in Life

### 1) Matthew 10:37 – 39 NKJV

<sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

a. Jesus sets a pretty high standard for us to love God enough to be worthy of Him. What does He mean by this?

b. Has there ever been a human being that could love God the way Jesus tells us to? Where do we find the ability to love God with this kind of devotion?

c. What does it mean to take our cross, and how does this make us worthy?

d. What did Jesus' going to the cross reconcile, and what does that say about our taking up our cross?

e. What does it mean to follow Jesus?

f. What does it mean that in losing our life for Jesus we find it, and how is this the opposite way from how the world works?

### 2) Matthew 16:1 – 12

Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. <sup>2</sup> He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red*'; <sup>3</sup> and in the morning, '*It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.*' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times. <sup>4</sup> A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

<sup>5</sup> Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." <sup>7</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "*It is* because we have taken no bread."

<sup>8</sup> But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? <sup>9</sup> Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up?

<sup>10</sup> Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?

<sup>11</sup> How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—*but* to

beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”<sup>12</sup> Then they understood that He did not tell *them* to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

a. Jesus warned His disciples of the doctrine of the Pharisees. What do you think He meant by that, and why did He use leaven as a symbol here?

b. What did Jesus mean by the sign of Jonah, and what does that mean for us?

c. What did the disciples not understand regarding the miracles of the loaves and the feeding of the five and seven thousand?

### 3) Matthew 16:13 - 20

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”<sup>14</sup> So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

a. Why did Jesus call Simon Peter son of Jonah when he said that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God?

b. What made Peter worthy to receive this revelation? Is this revelation important for us to receive, and what makes us worthy?

c. What is the rock that Jesus builds His church on?

d. What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven? Where and what do we bind and loose?

### 4) Matthew 16:21 - 28

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.<sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

<sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. <sup>28</sup> “Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

a. Jesus told His disciples that He was going to lose His life so that He could be raised from the dead. What did Jesus have to correct in Peter’s thinking?

b. Peter had just received a profound revelation about Jesus. How then could he be so mindful of the wrong things? What does that tell us?

c. Does what we are mindful of effect what we bind or loose on earth, therefore determining what we receive of our heavenly blessing?