



03-30-2018

But First, The Cross

Matthew 16:21-25 - *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, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.* ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 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.” ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

1. **Friday’s The Only Way To Sunday.**
2. **Humanities Concerns Minimize The Cross.**

John 12:24 - *Jesus replied that the time had come for him to return to his glory in heaven, and that “I must fall and die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrows of the earth. Unless I die I will be alone—a single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.*

- **Jesus’ Whole Life Was A Parable**
- **God Offers Us The Cross**

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 - *but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

- **It Was Christ’s Power And Wisdom That Led Him To The Cross**
- **We Need To Have Faith In The Plans Of God**

3. **Friday’s The Beginning Of Sunday’s Transformation.**

- **It Was The Way Of Jesus; It’s The Way For Us**