

Matt 16:21-17:27; Mark 8:31-9:32; Luke 9:21-45 - Daily Study Questions

<p>4. In Mark 9:9-13 what did Jesus say (v9) and how did this affect His disciples (v10)? What else did they ask (v11) and what was Jesus' answer (v12-13)? What did this mean?</p>	
<p>5. From Mark 9:14-18 what did Jesus encounter next (v14-15) and what did He discover (v16-18)? How did Jesus respond and why (v19)?</p>	
<p>6. Read Mark 9:20-24. What happened (v20) and how did the father answer Jesus (v21-22)? What did Jesus say (v23) and how did the father respond (v24)? What does this teach us?</p>	
<p>7. Look at Mark 9:25-27 what did Jesus observe (v25) and what did this lead Him to do (v25)? What was the result (v26-27)?</p>	
<p>8. In Matt 17:19-21 what was the disciples' question (v19)? What was Jesus' initial (20) and secondary (v21) answer? How should we apply these answers to our lives?</p>	
<p>9. Using Matt 17:22-23 & Mark 9:30-32 what did Jesus reiterate (Matt 17:22-23) and why (Mk 9:30-31)? How did the disciples react (v23, Mk 9:32) and what does this show about them?</p>	
<p>10. Based on Matt 17:24-27 what was Peter asked and how did he handle it (v24)? From Jesus' answer was he right (v25-26)? What other principle did Jesus teach him (v27)?</p>	
<p>11. Recap the situations that Jesus uses to teach His disciples in this study and what they need to learn from each. Why do you think God uses difficult situations to lead us to change?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“Immediately the boy’s father cried out and began saying, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

Mark 9:24 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Words With Friends—Love (Gal 5:22)

(Using questions from Sunday’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Tell your group about the most loving person you have known. Why is that characteristic of love so appealing?
2. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Discuss the value of the fruit of Spirit (Christ-likeness, deeper relationships with others and with God). How are these produced?
3. What does it mean that love is 1) a choice and 2) an action? How does this differ from our typical definition of love?
4. Talk about the importance of having a “long fuse” to show true love, and the necessity of kindness. Why does serving demonstrate kindness? How are you doing?
5. Love is secure (not jealous, arrogant, or boastful) and self-denying (giving) according to 1 Cor 13:4-5. Why?
6. How does love protect others (see 1 John 3:11-12) and prove (demonstrate) your faith in Christ? Why is true love always visible in everyday practice?
7. Talk about practical ways to develop more love—how you can desire it, how you can decide to do it, and how you can devote yourself to the One who produces.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 8, Issue 22



The Valley of Despair

Matthew 16:21-17:27; Mark 8:31-9:32; Luke 9:21-45



Jesus' one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The "valley of despair" is that place one finds himself when learning a whole new approach to something. Leaving the comfort of the old way, the new way often leads to despair until it is learned. In this week's study Jesus began to reveal to His disciples some new directions and approaches and they didn't fare very well. He first told them the tragic truth about His impending death. Heading to Jerusalem where crucifixion awaited Him, He told them of the resurrection to follow – but they didn't "catch" this; rather, they focused on their grief. However, He reminded them that the cross was their pathway to true success as well. Jesus' followers must bear their own crosses, sacrificing their lives, if they are to save them. This downward approach will lead to the affir-

mation of the Father in eternity. Jesus then took three of them to the top of the mountain so they could participate in His transfiguration. There He was transformed so that a glimpse of His coming glory would be seen. He also discussed His departure with Moses and Elijah who appeared. When Peter awoke and saw them he wanted to build three individual tents, but God's voice thundered that Jesus was the only One to whom they needed to listen. As they descended into the valley Jesus was confronted by the failure of the disciples He had left behind. They were indeed in the "valley of despair", having been unable to exorcise a young man's demon. So, Jesus embarked on teaching through this despair, and they were ready to learn. After casting out the demon, the disciples

asked Jesus why they had failed; He told them that such power came only through prayer, which provides the faith in God to be able to move such mountains. Finally, some Jewish leaders tested Peter about whether Jesus paid the temple tax. Defending Him, Peter said Jesus did, but was wrong. Jesus explained that He was exempt since He was "part of the family", but told Peter to go catch a fish, take the coin from his mouth and pay the tax. So, his mistake led to another learning opportunity, since he was in the valley of despair.

Study Questions for Matt 16:21-17:27; Mark 8:31-9:32; Luke 9:21-45

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Matt 16:21-23. What 4 things did Jesus begin to tell His disciples (v21)? What was Peter's reaction (v22) and how did Jesus respond (v23)? Explain His answer.</p>	
<p>2. Using Matt 16:24-27 what did Jesus say following Him required (v24) and why was it logical (v25-26)? What coming event underscored the importance of His words (v27, see also Mark 8:38)?</p>	
<p>3. From Mark 9:1-8 what was Jesus' prophecy (v1)? What occurred next (v2-3), who appeared (v4), and why? How did this fulfill His prophecy? What did Peter say (v5-6) and how did God respond (v7-8)?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)