TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS

Matthew 16:21–28

Key Verse: 16:24

1. What did Jesus begin to explain to his disciples? (21) Why do you think he waited until now to tell them this? Why did the religious leaders want to do these things to Jesus? Why did he have to suffer, be killed and raised to life? (Isa53:4–6,10,11)
2. How did Peter react, and why? (22) What did Jesus say to him? (23) What does it mean to “have in mind the concerns of God”? In light of this, how can we be a help to those facing suffering?
3. Read verse 24. If we want to be Jesus’ disciple, what three things do we need to do? Why do followers of Jesus deny themselves? (Ro14:7,8; 2Co5:15; 1Pe4:2) What does this word “deny” mean, practically? (Mt10:37; Col3:5)
4. Why do followers of Jesus “take up their cross”? (Mt5:11; Ro8:17; Php1:29) How could Jesus take up his cross? (Mt26:38–44) How can we? (Heb12:2,3) In this context, what does it mean to “follow” Jesus? (Php3:10)
5. What paradoxical life principle did Jesus teach? (25) What questions did he ask, and why? (26) What did he promise, and how does this help us to follow him? (27) What else did he say, and what could it mean? (28; Jn3:3; Ro14:17) Why is this hope of seeing him coming in his kingdom important?