

THE ROAD TO THE CROSS
Part Two

Text: Matt. 16:13-28

I. THE _____ OF THE CROSS (vs. 13-17, 20)

1. A Powerful _____ (vs. 13-17)

- Not just John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah.
- The _____, “the” (one and only) Son of the living God.
- Application: The One Who has right to _____ us to follow and is worth following.

2. A _____ Prohibition (vs. 20)

- He charged them not to tell because they still didn't _____ His work.
- Application: If you leave out the _____, you're not preaching Christ or doing God's work.

II. THE _____ OF THE CROSS (vs. 18-19)

1. To _____ a building called the church.

- Time: “will build” = _____, after dying on the cross.
- Place: “on this _____”
 - Not _____ but the massive Rock of _____ Himself.

2. To open the _____ of heaven and hell.

- Keys of kingdom of heaven = the ministry of opening heaven's doors to people who believe in Christ.
- Opening gates = delivering souls from eternal _____ and defeating those who seek to put people in hell.
- Loosing = introducing people to true _____ in Christ
- Binding = 2 things:
 - Bringing a greater _____ and judgment on those who reject Christ in unbelief;
 - Restricting the operations of spiritual _____ through prayer.
- Three primary ways binding and loosing are applied:
 - Context here = through _____ of the gospel
 - 18:18-20: in the application of church _____ and in agreeing prayer

III. THE _____ OF THE CROSS (vs. 21-23)

1. Christ's exact and _____ prediction

- “From that time forth” = Here and many times thereafter:

- 17:9, 22-23; 20:17-19; 21:38-42; 26:10-12, 31-32

- The exactness of the prophecy also showed that what happened to Christ was no _____ but exactly what the Father willed (Acts 2:23-24).

2. Peter's _____ objection

- Peter's motives were both _____ and self-centered.
- Application: One of Satan's most effective deceptions = you can have Christ without a cross.
 - Things of men = _____ things.
 - Things of God = _____ things.
- Question: Who is _____ of your life? You can tell by what you “savor.”

IV. THE _____ OF THE CROSS (vs. 24-28)

- To “_____” your life.
 - Losing your life for Christ's sake = turning your back on your life in this world.
 - Finding your life = finding the eternal, abundant life of Christ.
- The other possibility = to lose the life you tried to save.
 - “Will save” = _____, desires to save.
 - Same as gaining the _____.

CONCLUSION

- We can be so glad that our Lord was the _____ to travel the road of the cross!
- Which road will you take? The popular or less traveled by? The world's way or Christ's?