

Creekside Community Church
"The Return of the King" The Gospel of Matthew
December 3, 2017
John Bruce - Pastor

Jesus' Unlikely Road to Happiness
(Matthew 16:21-17:8)

A. Jesus' Road to Happiness (Matt. 16:21-23)

B. Jesus' Followers Road to Happiness (Matt. 16:24-27)

C. Proof that Jesus' Road is the Only Road to Happiness (Matt. 16:28-17:18)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. When was the last time you remember saying no to yourself in order to say yes to Christ? What was the result?

Going Deeper

3. Please read Matthew 16:21-23. Why would Jesus' explanation of His mission be a surprise for His disciples? Why does Peter react as he does? Why does Jesus call Peter "Satan" shortly after He praised Peter for listening to God (vs. 16-17)? According to vs. 23, how can I tell if I'm listening to God or to the devil? Why is the road which Jesus must take an unlikely road to happiness? What do these verses reveal about Him?
4. Please read Matt. 16:24-27. Why is the road we must take to follow Jesus an unlikely road to happiness? What do you think Jesus means by "deny himself?" "Take up his cross?" How do you see Jesus doing this in His own life? Why is this road the only road to true discipleship? How can I tell if I'm following Jesus or following my own plan?
5. What did this road mean to the disciples? What does it mean for Christians today? What competes with Jesus as Lord of your life?
6. As unlikely as this road seems, why is it ultimately to our benefit to follow Jesus? How does Jesus' road compare to what our culture tells us we need to be happy?
7. Please read Matt. 16:28-17:8. How would this incident encourage the disciples to follow Jesus even though it required self-denial and cross-bearing?

Application: What is one lesson you've learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?