

**Matthew 16:27-28:** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

**Intro:** Two weeks ago, we saw Jesus turn the minds of His disciples to the fact that He would be a suffering Christ. Peter declared Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the living God! But the disciples didn't understand that Jesus would be a suffering Christ – He would have to suffer & die & rise again to save His people from their sins! Last week, we saw Jesus tell His disciples that if they would truly follow Him, they must give to Him their full commitment, allegiance, and loyalty and follow Him in His sufferings: **Matthew 16:24:** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Then Jesus gave us reasons for why we should deny ourselves, take up our cross, & follow Him:

- 1) If you lose your life for Jesus' sake, you will find it! And we see three other reasons in our text today:
- 2) Jesus is coming back; 3) Jesus is going to repay each person according to what he has done;
- And 4) Some of the disciples will see Jesus coming in His kingdom

### **1. Jesus Christ Is Going To Come Back On The Day Of Judgment**

**Matthew 16:27:** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father

**a. Jesus Christ will return: Of the World to Come:** We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, & raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, & the righteous to endless joy; & that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

- **Acts 1:10-11:** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- **Hebrews 9:28:** so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

- **1 Thess. 4:17:** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died & rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, & with the sound of the trumpet of God. & the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, & so we will always be with the Lord.

**b. Jesus Christ's return will be glorious:** He's going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father!

**1) Jesus is coming back with His angels: 2 Thessalonians: 1:7-10:** when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire . . . .

**Revelation 19:11-14:** Then I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, & on his head are many diadems, & he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, & the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> & the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white & pure, were following him on white horses.

**2) Jesus is coming back in the glory of His Father:** God does not share His glory with anyone!

**Isaiah 48:11:** My glory I will not give to another.

Jesus' return will be a manifestation of the holiness of His Father & the power of His Father & the beauty of His Father & the truth of His Father & and the justice of His Father & the patience of His Father & the grace & mercy of His Father & the goodness of His Father!

## **2. Jesus Christ Is Going To Repay Each Person According To What He Has Done**

**Matthew 16:27:** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

**a. Jesus is God: Psalm 62:11-12:** Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,<sup>12</sup> and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

**b. Jesus will judge the wicked (repay them!): 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10:** when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,<sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

**Rev. 19:11-15:** Then I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful & True, & in righteousness he judges & makes war.<sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, & on his head are many diadems, & he has a name written that no one knows but himself.<sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, & the name by which he is called is The Word of God.<sup>14</sup> & the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white & pure, were following him on white horses.<sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, & he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

**c. Jesus will reward the righteous (repay them!): 1) How do you get righteous? GOSPEL!**

**2) The righteous will do good works: Revelation 19:7-8:** Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27:** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.<sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

**3) These good works are not the basis/foundation of our justification, but the evidence of it:** We are justified by faith alone, but the faith alone that justified will move us to godly action and obedience to God's commands:

- **Romans 4:4-8:** to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. & to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, & whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

- **James 2:14-17:** What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food,<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?<sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (The evidence is necessary!)

**There is a judgment according to works for believers: John Piper:** I like to think for example of the thief on the cross. OK, a lifetime of sin - all he did was sin for what? Forty years? He's dying, may begin by cursing, like we heard from John, Bam! The Spirit blew where [He] wills, no explanation. This man's repenting. He's crying out for mercy. And Jesus says, "See you in Paradise today." That man will experience the judgment according to works. What will he have? Not many. Half an hour's worth? But they're sweet. And they're real! So the file will be opened, alright, the books and the book. We got the book of life, and you got the books. These books are really thick. Everything you've ever done! Every idle word, Jesus says, everything. They're all written down. So this man's file is getting picked up like this. Wow! And every one is "F"! His grades are all "F"! Pick them up. Throw them out. He's got a little teeny file at the back. And in it is: "Heart was broken for his sin; Recognized Savior;

Lovingly exhorted his comrade in evil; Died." And the LORD will hold this up to the whole universe [and say]: "He was real! He trusted my Son! This is the evidence!" So that had he ever read a commandment in the Bible that says: "You will not enter into the Kingdom without a work." He'd know how to interpret it. The work isn't the ground of his acceptance. The work was the fruit of this amazing opening of his heart, believing in Jesus, being justified, and the fruit for fifteen minutes? half an hour? an hour? And that goes written down.

4) Jesus is going to reward His people for their good works: Col. 3:23-25: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that **from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward**. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, & there is no partiality.

- **2 Corinthians 5:9-10:** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil**.

- **Matthew 6:3-4:** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **(Jesus is God!)**

### **3. Some Of The Disciples Standing With Jesus Will Not Taste Death Until They See The Son Of Man Coming In His Kingdom**

**Matthew 16:28:** Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

**a. The Kingdom of God coming with power refers to the Transfiguration:** 1) In the preceding verses, Jesus had just spoken about dying to self and losing one's life for His sake – which, could have included physical death – and did for almost all of the disciples! Some of you standing here will not face this death until you see some amazing glorious Kingdom power! And what a motivator this must have been for those disciples who saw this Kingdom power to endure suffering!

2) The “some standing here who will not taste death” refer to the fact that Jesus only took three of His disciples with Him onto the Mount of Transfiguration.

3) The Transfiguration is a powerful manifestation of the King of the Kingdom of God – Jesus – in all His glory. So it is a glimpse of the Kingdom of God coming with power.

**Sinclair Ferguson:** Six days after Jesus had spoken, He took Peter, James & John to witness His transfiguration. . . a connection [is drawn] between what Jesus said & what He experienced on the Mount of Transfiguration. He seems to be suggesting that the explanation of the cryptic saying lies in what took place at the end of that week. There, three of the disciples (“some who are standing here”) saw the power of God's kingdom, indeed its glory in an altogether new way. It was as though they caught a glimpse of all that Jesus would be when His kingdom finally came. He was transfigured. His glory was seen. His power and kingly majesty were momentarily visible. It was a foretaste of that day when His kingdom would come with power in His resurrection (when He was “declared with power to be the Son of God,” Rom. 1:4). It was a foretaste, too, of the day of His final glory.

**John MacArthur:** In all 3 of the synoptic Gospels, this promise is made immediately prior to the Transfiguration. Furthermore, the word for “kingdom” can be [understood as] “royal splendor.” Therefore, it seems most natural to interpret this promise as a reference to the Transfiguration, which “some” of the disciples – Peter, James, and John, would witness only 6 days later.

- **Matthew 24:3:** As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming . . ."

- **Matthew 24:30:** Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**b. The Kingdom of God coming with power refers to all the major events in redemptive history connected to the grand establishment of the Church and the beginning of Christ's Kingly reign:** This includes Jesus' resurrection from the dead; the Holy Spirit being poured out at Pentecost; and the rapid growth of the Church as Gentiles are saved and en-grafted into God's people (the book of Acts).

**D. A. Carson:** It seems best to take [this verse] as having a more general reference – namely not referring simply to the resurrection, to Pentecost, or the like, but to the manifestation of Christ's kingly reign exhibited after the resurrection in a host of ways, not the least of them being rapid multiplication of disciples and the mission to the Gentiles. Some of those standing there would live to see Jesus' gospel proclaimed throughout the Roman Empire and a rich 'harvest' of converts reaped for Jesus Messiah.

**c. Which one of these two interpretations do I think is correct?** I think they both are correct. I think both of these interpretations are so closely connected that they are essentially two manifestations or fulfillment's of the one meaning of the text. The coming of the Kingdom of God in power is seen in the Transfiguration and some saw it before they tasted death. And the glorious events of Jesus' resurrection, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the explosive growth of the Church as sinners were saved and followed Jesus is also the coming of the Kingdom of God in power and some saw it before they tasted death as well.

And all of this is leading up to the point in time when God's Kingdom will fully come in the New Heaven's and the New Earth and Christ is manifested in all His glory for all eternity – putting all His enemies under His feet!

And oh beloved Church, we ought to long for more and more of Christ's Kingdom to come with power now! The Kingdom is here now, but there's more to come as well. That's why we pray in the Lord's prayer: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven. Hallowed by Thy Name! Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

Do you pray for this & work for this? We ought to pray for opportunities for God to advance His Kingdom through us. Pray for opportunities to tell others about the King of Kings and His death and resurrection!

**Jesus' Kingdom Mighty Came, Above All Powers He Would Claim, And Every One Of Earth's Kings Tame For The Glory And Fame Of His Beautiful Name!**

What Jesus says will always go  
And all He says – it will be so  
His Words are right so long ago  
With truth and grace they always flow  
And when this world is gone with woe  
His Words will stand – forever sow  
He'll conquer every doubting foe  
All to His grace our praise we owe  
For on that cross His love He'd show  
And rise again so we could know  
Salvation's gift on us bestow  
Then by His Word we'll daily grow!

All the Bible is true and clear  
For our God spoke to bring us near  
All Words are true and do cohere  
Don't doubt His Word and from Him veer  
God's Word came down – He did appear  
And died and rose to save from fear  
His love and beauty have no peer

So give Him your attentive ear  
He'll save you from judgment severe  
And grant you life with joyous cheer  
If Him by faith you'll trust sincere!

Some truths God spoke are hard to understand  
Our sinful minds, His truth withstand  
Our wants and wishes we demand  
And for this sin the cross was planned  
Christ died and rose at God's command  
Triumphant over death He'll stand  
His Kingdom will ever expand  
He'll hold us in His strong right hand  
He's all the glory in this land!

Some standing there would no death taste  
Until God's Kingdom came with haste  
The meaning of this must be traced  
Is Christ transfigured a foretaste?  
Is this the cross where He's disgraced?  
His rising where all death's erased?  
Or Pentecost – the Spirit's placed?  
Or when the temple is defaced?  
On all these truths His Kingdom's based  
The greatest foes our King has faced  
And crushed the evils we've embraced  
So with salvation we'll be graced  
And be all cleansed and pure and chaste  
To never more be dead disgraced!

Be assured of this – His Kingdom came with power  
And there's more to come at this age's last hour  
Over all authorities our King will tower  
All those who reject Him from His wrath they'll cower  
But on His beloved children – blessings He'll shower  
He'll take all in your life that's been sad or sour  
And turn it for joy like a blooming flower  
All enemies against you He'll finally devour  
For He's the greatest of the greats – the world Superpower!

Christ Jesus Someday Will Return  
With Father's Glory To Confirm  
We Are His, Repay In Turn  
For What We've Done For Him Affirm  
We're Saved Since Christ Got What We'd Earn  
For Sin We All Deserve To Burn  
But Jesus Died And Rose To Turn  
God's Wrath Away From Us We Learn  
He Is Our Savior So Discern  
Make Him Our Deep And Great Concern  
He Is Our All! For Him We Yearn!