

08-30-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Peter gets it spectacularly wrong here, and Jesus rebukes him...this, of course, is the same Peter whom Jesus calls to lead the church...If Jesus can call Peter into leadership and love him despite his stunning mistakes, surely the same Lord can find a use for [us] despite [our] regular mistakes.”

Scott Gunn



Matthew 16:21-28

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean for you to set your mind on divine things? What are the human things that distract you? In what areas are you currently focusing on human things rather than divine things? What worldly concerns (status, money, approval) interfere with your spiritual health? What will help you reorder your priorities? What spiritual practices might aid your discernment of God’s perspective so that your decisions and actions reflect God’s love?
- What has Christian discipleship “cost” you thus far? What would it look like for you to further deny yourself in order to follow Christ? How would the notion of denying yourself affect your daily habits and routines? What that is familiar and comfortable might need to be set aside for the sake of new life in Christ? What will it take for you to be able to make such a sacrifice? What specific cross (sacrifice, responsibility, or hardship) is God asking you to shoulder? What do you need in order to do so?
- In what ways has God called you to something that was completely outside your plans and expectations? Have you been tempted to persist in following your own way instead of following God’s leading and guidance especially when God’s call is to the unknown or unfamiliar? What would it look like for you to allow your will and purpose to be directed by Christ? How might God presently be challenging you to undertake something that requires you to rely fully on God as you follow the call? What will help you overcome any feelings of inadequacy or unworthiness?

Daily Household Prayer

Christ Jesus, our teacher and our friend, we have not listened for Your word amid the clamor of words all around us. We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies. We try harder to defend what we think we know, than to reach for that which is beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do Your will. We pray for our hearts to pay attention to the cries of our neighbor and to resonate with Your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope, and love. Amen.