

The Before And After Picture

Promise: the way of the cross, though messy, leads to fulfillment of life

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Ps 26; Romans 12:9-21; [Matthew 16:21-28](#)
(13th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 17), 8/30/20)

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” – v. 24

Lead In – Sometimes you need to make a mess before you can clean a mess. And my beautiful bride is better at this than I am. I try real hard not to let things look messy in the first place. But I concede, in order to do a thorough cleaning you need to move things around. Take cleaning the garage for instance... This makes for a good before and after picture. And the before and after picture may be a way of understanding the Gospel Lesson this morning...

I. Surprising Last Words in Last Sunday's Gospel

- A. Simon Peter had made the good confession!
- B. They were strictly charged to tell no one...
- C. The before and after picture of Jesus' death and...

II. Why The Messianic Secrecy?

- A. The Messiah folks were looking for...
- B. Jesus tries to teach his disciples otherwise...
- C. The sharp rebuke of Peter and just why...

III. Before And After of Christ's Return at End of Age

- A. Taking up of our cross extends until the end...
- B. This makes sense of what Paul has to say...
- C. Failure here falsifies the message and does harm...

Parting Shot – As our Lord Jesus prepared his disciples for the days ahead, following his death, resurrection, and ascension, he sought to reassure them. According to John's Gospel Account he said to them, “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” In garage cleaning language, we need to make a mess in order to clean a mess. Our salvation is a messy deal, a bloody messy deal! But the cleansing affording by Jesus death is no surface dressing! It is a complete emptying to get to the bottom of the mess of sin, death, and the evil one, for a thorough cleaning. But I think you will like the after picture! It will be truly stunning!

Mt 16:20 Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Jn 18:36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Is 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Matthew 16:21-28 ESV

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For 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. ²⁸Truly, 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.”

1 Co 2:1-2 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Co 1:23-24 But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

He 11:39-40 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Ro 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Jn 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

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Psalm 26

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I have lived **with** integrity;*
I have trusted in the Lord
and **have** not faltered.

²Test me, O **LORD**, and try me;*
examine my heart **and** my mind.

³For your love is **before** my eyes;*
I have walked **faithfully** with you.

⁴I have not sat **with** the worthless,*
nor do I consort with **the** deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;*
I will not sit down **with** the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in **innocence**,
O LORD,*
that I may go in procession
round your altar,
⁷singing aloud a song **of** thanksgiving*
and recounting
all your **wonderful** deeds.

⁸LORD, I love the house
in **which** you dwell*
and the place
where your glory abides.

⁹Do not sweep me **away** with sinners,*
nor my life with those
who **thirst** for blood,
¹⁰whose hands are full of **evil** plots,*
and their right hand **full** of bribes.

¹¹As for me, I will live **with** integrity;*
redeem me, O LORD,
and have **pity** on me.

¹²My foot stands on **level** ground;*
in the full assembly
I will **bless** the LORD.

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