



“Winning”

Matthew 16:24-28

A WORD FROM MIKE...

This week’s sermon concludes our “Momentum” series on stewardship. We end the series on the topic of being committed rather than careless.

We live in a self-centered culture. Self-centeredness is the opposite of stewardship. To be a good steward of God’s resources requires self-denial, sacrifice, and delay of gratification. How can we at UPC develop a culture of stewardship when the world around us is shouting in our ears, “Indulge yourself! Buy now, pay later! You deserve it!”?

The answer is to get a vision for Jesus and his kingdom that exceeds and supplants our love of things of this world.

May this week’s study open our eyes to the glory of Christ and empower us for commitment to his cause.



KNOWING GOD

Read **Matthew 16:13-28**. Why do you think it’s important to hear Peter’s confession of Christ in vs. 13-16 and Jesus’ explanation of his mission in vs. 21, in order to respond to our call to discipleship in vs. 24?

What does Jesus predict is going to happen in the future?

How should a clear view of the second coming of Christ impact life in the present?



GROWING TOGETHER

In what areas of life is it difficult for you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?

Read **Matthew 13:44-46**. These two little parables suggest that we will give up something we love for something we love more. What would it take for you to have the kind of

relationship with Jesus that you will gladly give up everything else to know and follow after him?

SERMON NOTES



SERVING OTHERS

Matthew 16:25 says, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” Explain in your own words what “saving your life” and “losing your life” mean.

In his sermon, Pastor Mike made the statement that there’s a little bit of Charlie Sheen in all of us. What are you hanging on to that is preventing or hindering full commitment to Christ and his kingdom?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

Parents, it’s important for your child to understand that the call to follow Jesus is not a burden but a joy. Everything we give up to be a Christian is replaced by things that are far better and more satisfying. Talk about what your family has given up in order to follow Jesus and what God has given you that is of greater value. Is God calling your family to give something away (time, talents, or treasure) in order to gain a better joy?