**BIBLICAL PARADOXES**

**Text: Matthew 16:24-26**

* Mathew16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
* Mat 16:25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
* Mathew 16:26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**INTRO:**

* Do you believe if I say the more you eat, the more you get hungry?
* The more you sleep the more you get sleepy
* The more you exercise the stronger you become
* The more you rest, the weaker you become
* Paradox- something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO UNDERSTAND BIBLICAL PARADOXES
* FOR US TO YIELD ON GOD’S WAYS AS THEY ARE BETTER THAN OURS
* Isaiah 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
* Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
* Isaiah 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**I. WHOEVER DESIRES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT**

* Whoever loses his life for Christ’s sake will find it
* By saving you lose
* By losing you find
* Let’s see the context
* “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”-v 13
* Mathew 16:14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
* Mat 16:15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
* Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
* Mat 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
* What was the question?
* Who said that? Who revealed it to me?
* Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
* Mat 16:20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.
* Why not?
* Funny enough, the more we become prohibited the more we do it
* Mark 7:35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.
* Mark 7:36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it.
* Mark 9:9 Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
* Mat 17:9 Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”
* Mathew 17:12 “But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”
* Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
* Matt 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”
* Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”
* Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
* Mathew 16:25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
* There will always be a conflict between the world and God’s will
* In fact if we love the world, the love of God is not with us
* 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
* 1John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.
* 1John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
* Mat 16:26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**II. THE LAST WILL BE FIRST & VICE VERSA**

* Matthew 20:16 “So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.
* Matthew 21:31 “Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

**III. THE MORE YOU GIVE THE MORE YOU BECOME RICH**

* ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ Acts 20:35
* Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**IV. GETTING EXALTED BY HUMBLING YOURSELF**

* James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
* The only way up is going down
* John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.

**V. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO WEEP, FOR YOU SHALL LAUGH**

* Luke 6:21 Blessed are you who hunger now,
* For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now,
* For you shall laugh.

**Challenge:**

* Do you understand these paradoxes?
* Are you willing to lose your life so you could find it?
* Are you willing give so as to gain?
* Are you humbling yourself to be exalted?

**CONCLUSION:**

* ***Matthew 16:25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.***