**Reflections-09-03-17**

God’s Plan, Attitude, Discipleship

*“What setting are you on?”*

Matthew 16:21-28

1. Jesus shows his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. What’s your reaction to suffering?
2. Peter reacts to Jesus statement by trying to stop Jesus from saying what he was saying. Peter wanted to fix or change what God had planned. Do you ever try to change God’s plan?
3. Jesus tells Peter after being rebuked, “Get behind me, Satan.” Jesus sees Peter as a barrier to God’s plans. Jesus calls Peter a stumbling block. Do you think you have functioned as a stumbling block to what God has been trying to do with your life?
4. Jesus tells Peter that he was “setting” his mind on human things and not on divine things. Do you always know what setting your mind is on? How are human things and divine things different?
5. Jesus tells the disciples that if they want to become “followers” that they need to deny themselves, take up the cross and follow him. In others words, a follower has to make themselves #2 in their life. Why is this so difficult?
6. Jesus is asking us to do the very opposite of what comes natural to us i.e. serving ourselves. How does one deny oneself? What does that look like?

**Matthew 16:21-28**

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of 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, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ 23But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 ‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’