



**Courageously Fighting for the Things That Really Matter
(Matthew 16:24-26)**

November 10 -11, 2018

Family Talk About Two Things

1. The midterm elections
2. The sermon series for 2018

Note: My Facebook post after midterm elections.

Question for the year: What are the courageous conversations you need to have that can change your life outcomes?

1. We Must Have Courageous Conversations About the Messy Issues of Life

Big Question: What are the messy issues in your life that need to be confronted?

- January thru February: A courageous conversation about having a messy life
- March: A courageous conversation about your seasons of life
- April: A courageous conversation about your past, present, future and life-potential

2. We Must Make Courageous Changes (May)

Big Point: We can't just talk all of our lives; we must change.

3. We Must Courageously Look at Changing Our World View (June)

Big Question: What is your worldview?

4. We Must Make Courageous Plans (July)

Big Question: What season are you in right now and how should you manage it?

5. We Must Become Courageous Wealth Builders (August)

Big Point: We Must courageously build wealth with what we have

6. We Must Establish Courageous Priorities (September)

Big Question: What do you value and what are your real priorities?

7. We Must Have a Courageous Focus (October)

Big Question: What impact has your focus had on your life?

8. We Must Courageously Fight for What Really Matters? (November)

Big Question: What do you really need to fight for in your life?

9. We Must Have Courageous Faith (December)

Big Question: Is your faith big enough to accomplish your dreams?

I. Jesus Courageously Fights A Narrow-Minded Assumption

(Peter Thinks He Can Win Without a Fight)

Introduction: Jesus Announces the Tools Necessary to Win A Fight (Matthew 16:24-26, NKJV)

- 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**. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses



his life for My sake will find it. 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?

- A. You must **deny** yourself (What will you deny yourself to win your fight?)
- B. You must take up your **cross** (What responsibility will you carry to win your fight?)
- C. You must be willing to **follow** (Who are you willing to follow that can help you win your fight?)

Statement: Jesus said these words after a brief conflict with Peter about a fight announcement he made earlier. He was trying to warn the disciples that success would not come without them working through some difficult fight moments.

II. Peter's Response to Jesus' Announcement (Matthew 16:21–26, NKJV)

1. Peter Rejects Jesus' Fight Announcement

- 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
- 22 Then Peter took Him aside and **began to rebuke Him**, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

2. Peter Is Rebuked for Rejecting the Fight Announcement

- 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."

3. Peter Learns Three Important Fight Lessons from Jesus' Fight Announcement

- He learned that Jesus **openly embraced the need** for challenge ("...He must go to Jerusalem and suffer...")
- He learned that Jesus **rebuked people who denied** the need for challenge
- He learned that Jesus linked the anti-fight attitude to a **Satanic influence**

Conclusion: You will never advance in your life if you are not willing to embrace three callings

1. The call to self-denial
2. The call to unfair responsibilities (crosses)
3. The call to submit and follow leadership (Who can God send to lead you?)

Next Time: Courageously Fighting Yourself (The Challenge of Self-Denial)

Read Ahead: Matthew 16:21-24

Bonus: My Facebook post after midterm elections.

The word democracy basically means, a system of government controlled by the whole population, the people rule, not just one party or persuasion. Most of us want what we want, but in a democracy, we share the power. The Bible is right, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." (Matthew 12:25) I disagree with a lot these days. The political fighting and tone concern me. The need to address immigration, I get it, but the approach seems extreme. The economy is exciting. However, we must pay attention to the fact that we have raised our national debt by a trillion dollars; it is scary. The racial tensions are sad for all of us. Our history taught us better. But we must find a way to lock arms and move forward.