



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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## Matthew 16: 21-28 (NIV) Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

<sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

<sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

<sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

<sup>28</sup> "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."



## MATTHEW 16:21-28

This reading follows immediately on Peter's declaration that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God".

Peter must have felt like he was walking on clouds when that statement came out of his mouth, and Jesus praised him so warmly.

For Jesus to follow such an important moment with this devastating news must have made the disciples feel that they were riding a roller-coaster.

It must have seemed inconceivable to them that Jesus could simultaneously be God's Son, and also know that he would die at the hands of the priests and other religious leaders. It just didn't make sense!

Jesus followed this up by stating that becoming a follower of his was not a recipe for an easy life.

Everything must have seemed upside down. Jesus spoke about "losing" and "saving" our lives in a way that didn't make much sense then, and doesn't make much sense today either. It goes against everything that the world teaches us.

Matthew's gospel has other passages which turn worldly wisdom upside down too. The Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-7 also discloses many sayings which overturn conventional wisdom. It speaks of turning the other cheek, and of loving our enemies.

Much of what Jesus had to say, and much of what he did, show a different way of seeing the world. Jesus had his sights fixed on what was acceptable to God, rather than what makes life easy, or comfortable, on earth.

"Taking up our cross" to follow Jesus doesn't necessarily lead to a pleasant life - it leads to challenges, to difficulties, to adventures, even to failures..... but it also leads to a life supported by Jesus, who is beside us, each and every step of the way.

Blessings from Meg

A great attitude  
becomes a great  
day which becomes  
a great month  
which becomes  
a great year  
which becomes a  
great life.

- Mandy Hale

### Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6,23-26, 45b



Life is accepting what is and working  
from that. ~ Gloria Naylor

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Marg, who is scheduled to commence chemotherapy this week.
- We pray that doctors can continue to control the pain for Ian Blanch.
- We give thanks that Peter Scorgie, and Tina are both home after successful surgery. We pray that they will both recuperate well.
- We pray for Beth, who expects to have eye surgery next month.
- We thank God for all of the efforts being made to stem Covid19; for medical staff, and for all the people worldwide who are working on vaccines.

### Meg's Musings

One evening last week I looked up at the sky, and saw huge banks of dark cloud.

Between the clouds was a small band of clear sky, with a sliver of new moon showing.

It looked beautiful, and quite fragile compared to the heavy, dark cloud.

But, in reality, the clouds are made up of tiny droplets of water, and are quite fragile and short-lived, whereas the moon is a solid sphere, millions of years old.

Sometimes how things appear to us, and how they really are is quite different; appearances can be deceptive.

We can trust God to show us what is solid, and dependable, and what is fragile and likely to let us down.

And the most solid and dependable of all is God.

Blessings from Meg



### Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

#### Love in Action

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

<sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

<sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Romans 12:9-21 The Law of Love

A P E A C E J B F W I E L K B Z M  
 P T F T O V U R U E B O O U R G K  
 L I V E Q K E V R Z V P J O I B H  
 F G O O D S R E U E Q V L J J L L  
 S N J R E N C L N X O E I J S E Q  
 V A G M Q N Y P F E L E Q A A S P  
 D T U Q I N M Q P C L S O I L S U  
 F F K S J U G E V N R W K M O I L  
 F B Y F O N U C V E R G A J Y N D  
 U K Z S L C Z C K D F E F A X G S  
 B O K N E Z D A C I C O V G T S W  
 O W C Q S I M A S V F E G E E D U  
 O R I V C E M V T O T R I N N J U  
 T X D N C H I E B R V Z D F Q G Q  
 V S U A M C D N N P F N A Z A C E  
 K M E U E I E Q N E I J Q Z F J F  
 D P F I A Y D A G K Y T J R H L J

Sincere	Providence	Kindness	revenge
peacemakers	peace	good	enemies
Blessing	evil	Love	

"Faith don't come in a bushel basket, Missy. It come one step at a time. Decide to trust Him for one little thing today, and before you know it, you find out He's so trustworthy you be putting your whole life in His hands." ~ Lynn Austin, *Candle in the Darkness*

"A smile is an inexpensive way to change your looks." ~ Charles Gordy



31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns  
 5 September ~ Fay Monckton



### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus