

Word of the Great King | the gift of living under authority

An Identity That Never Lets You Down

Matthew 16:24-28

June 26, 2022

Introduction: We're rightly suspicious of authority. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Lord Acton quips. But one day Jesus met a Roman soldier who understood the power of being under power. "I am a man under authority," he says, and because I am, "I say to one 'Go', and he goes." Maybe today we feel so impotent because we're so intent on throwing off authority and becoming our own. The Bible offers an alternative: to find the authority in our lives under the authority of a great King.

Prayer: Father, help us to turn to Christ for our identity. Amen.

Review: What encouraged you from last week's text and discussion?

Read: Matthew 16:24-28

Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus ask his disciples to deny themselves? What was to take its place?
2. What "life" was Jesus referring to in verses 25 and 26?
3. What does it look like for you to have your identity in Christ?
4. In verse 27, how does the phrase "according to what he (she) has done" relate to identity in Christ?
5. What is your understanding of verse 28?

Application: This week help us to trust in our identity in Christ and not in ourselves.

Prayer: Father, we are grateful for the reminder from this text that we find ourselves and our identity in Christ. Amen.