

## The End of Me Bible Study Series

MMBC

### #1 The Invitation

January 10, 2018

Review of Syllabus

Discussion Starter:

In her book, *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit*, Beth Moore recalls an insightful moment in her life. She had been watching an evening talk show featuring the story of the parents and killer of a young college student. The killer was his best friend. Their son's best friend was driving drunk at high speeds and wouldn't listen to his friends warning him to slow down. Their son lost his life in the accident.

What made this story so interesting? The parents had forgiven the young driver... And if that was not enough, they had taken him in as their own. This young man sat at the table in the chair which was once occupied by their only son. He slept in their son's bed. He worked with the victim's father, teaching seminars on safety. He shared their fortune and supported their causes. He spoke about the one he had slain in ways only someone who knew him intimately could have. ...

Why did these parents do such a thing? Because it gave them peace. They felt compelled to help others. The interviewer was amazed; I was amazed. I kept trying to put myself in the parents' position—but I could not. Then, as the tears streamed down my cheeks, I heard the Spirit of God whisper to my heart and say: "No wonder you cannot relate. You have put yourself in the wrong position. You, my child, are the driver." God was the parent who not only forgave, but also invited me to sit at His table in the space my Savior left for me. As a result, I have peace.

What lessons can we learn from these heartbroken parents about self-denial?

What does it mean to deny one's self?

In Matthew 16:21–28, we hear the story of how Jesus saw both His life and the lives of those who were His disciples. Let's look at what it means for us as individuals and what it means for us collectively as the body of Christ, and as a church. We'll begin by looking at verse 21. This begins the “turning point” in Jesus' ministry.

Read verse 21

The key word in verse 21 is suffer. Suffer is the Greek is *pascho*. From this word, we get the word passion. From henceforth, contextually speaking, we hear what is known as the passion of Christ. Jesus shares how He must suffer, face persecution, and finally die.

Cross references: Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23.

Did you notice that Luke's version adds the word **daily**?

Therefore, Jesus is saying if you want to follow me, you must be willing to die daily! This is called “dying to self!” The problem is the disciples didn’t understand what He was trying to tell them. Notice Matthew’s use of the word must. Jesus must go to Jerusalem!

Describe Peter’s response in verse 22. Do you think he understood?

Do you think we understand? Why don’t we? What are some hindrances?

Describe Jesus’ strong rebuke to Peter. Jesus saw Peter’s statement for what it was, and so he responds in verse 23: “Get behind me, Satan.”

Take a moment and look at the pretext. Jesus praised Peter earlier and now, He rebukes him. Why?

### **The Invitation**

Jesus’ point is pretty clear: “If you want to be a Christ-follower, you must...”

Discuss the four things the cross is known to represent:

1. Opposition
2. Shame
3. Suffering
4. Death

Are we willing to face opposition, shame, suffering and possibly death?

Jesus taught self-denial to His disciples with words and actions.

Read and discuss: John 13:1-17

In verse 15, Jesus said ‘I have given you an example! What did he mean?

Observations: Jesus was the host. Yet, He humbled Himself to be the servant. Normally, the host would assign this task to one of his servants. The Lord Himself was washing dirty feet!

Discuss Jesus’ question in 13:12. Apparently, Jesus knew they were somewhat clueless.

Again, Peter is the subject of the conversation. Do you think he fully understood?

Read 1 Peter 5:5 NIV. Do you think he finally did?

How does humility and self-denial work hand in hand together?

Peter insisted that we “clothe” ourselves with humility. Before we put on clothes, we have to take off what we have on. What do we need to take off in order to practice self-denial?

\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible says it goes before great destruction! Proverbs 16:18.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, “I have now concentrated all my prayers into one, and that one prayer is this, that I may die to self, and live wholly to Him.”

Are you in agreement with Spurgeon?

Week 2      Trust Me    Matthew 10:9 ff