

You First!

Mt. 16; Mt. 14

By Richard Crisco

You First Card Explanation:

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.

Mt 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 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."

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.

We are not only taught "Self-Gratification"

We are taught "Instant Gratification"!

Mt 14:1 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus 2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. 4 Because John had said to him,

"It is not lawful for you to have her." 5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. 7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. 8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter."

9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12 Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

Herod was supposed to be a ruler of the region, yet he could not rule his own soul!

Pro 16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

**When we live to please self,
We become most miserable!**

**"A man wrapped up in himself
makes a very small package."**

**The fruit of self-centeredness is anxiety, depression,
boredom, loneliness, etc.**

Mt. 16:25 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Some people are filled with themselves,
thinking how incredible they are.

Others are filled with themselves,
thinking how pathetic they are.

But in each case, the mind is captivated with self!

**Dead Sea has no life
because it only receives and does not give.**

13 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." 16 But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." 18 He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.

20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. 21

Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

**Before I can place "you first"
I must stop focusing on "myself first"!**

Destroying Self-Centeredness!

1. Cast your cares upon the Lord.

1Pe 5:6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

**We cannot be sensitive to others
when we are constantly thinking about ourselves.**

**When I release my cares unto the Lord
I am then capable of caring for others!**

1. Husband that is overwhelmed with responsibilities (work/ bills/ health/ relationship issues/ etc.) is incapable of loving his wife and family - Unless he learns to cast his cares upon the Lord!

2. **Wife that is overwhelmed with responsibilities of caring for the children/ house chores/ paying bills/ etc. is incapable of loving her husband – Unless she learns to cast her cares upon the Lord!**

Mt 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Mt. 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

One key to the abundant life is to stop living for self and start living for others!

Love is more than a feeling, it is a decision to value someone else as more important than yourself!

Opportunities to Serve:

1. **The Foster Family needs assistance w/ moving.**
2. **Denise Jones needs assistance w/ moving.**
3. **Two Services: Assistance with people care – especially with our children.**