**Text: Matthew 16:24-27 (NLT)**

**24** Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. **25** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **26** And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? **27** For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

**Three Points:**

1. What is Your Soul?
2. What is Your Soul Worth To God?
3. What is Your Soul Worth to You?

**Point #1: What is Your Soul?**

* I Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)
* Ecclesiastes 12:7 (KJV)
* II Corinthians 5:1 (ETR)

**I Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)**

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ecclesiastes 12:7 (KJV)**

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

**II Corinthians 5:1 (ETR)**

We know that our body—the tent we live in here on earth—will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a home for us to live in. It will not be the kind of home people build here. It will be a home in heaven that will continue forever.

**Point #2:** **What is Your Soul Worth To God?**

* Matthew 10:28 (NLT)
* Hebrews 6:18-19 (NLT)
* Romans 2:5-11

**Matthew 10:28 (NLT)**

Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Hebrews 6:18-19 (NLT)**

**18** So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. **19** This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

**Romans 2:5-11**

For a day of anger is coming, which God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.  **6**He will judge everyone according to what they have done. **7**To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, *He will give* eternal life;

**8**but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, *He will give* wrath and indignation. **9***There will be* tribulation and distress for every soul of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek,

**10**but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **11**For there is no partiality with God.

**Point #3: What is Your Soul Worth to You?**

* Hebrews 10:35-39 (NLT)
* Luke 12:15-21 (KJV)

**Hebrews 10:35-39 (NLT)**

**35** So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! **36** Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

**37** "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. **38** And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." *(Habakkuk 2:3-4)*

**39** But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

**Luke 12:15-21 (KJV)**

**15** And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

**16** And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: **17** And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? **18** And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

**20** But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

**21** So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

**RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:**

**1. HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

**2. BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

**3. REPENT ~ Luke 13:3**

I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.

**4. CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33**

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

**5. BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16**

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**6. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10**

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.