

Devotional—Tour Week 7

"The Passenger

Matthew 16:21-22 (The Message)

You're Not in the Driver's Seat

21-22 Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, "Impossible, Master! That can never be!"

23 But Jesus didn't swerve. "**Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works.**"

24-26 Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "**Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.** What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?"

27-28 **Don't be in such a hurry to go into business for yourself. Before you know it the Son of Man will arrive with all the splendor of his Father, accompanied by an army of angels. You'll get everything you have coming to you, a personal gift. This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you standing here are going to see it take place, see the Son of Man in kingdom glory.**"

Jesus Take The Wheel
Sung by Carrie Underwood
(Brett James/Gordy Sampson/Hillary Lindsey)

She was drivin' last Friday,
On her way to Cincinnati,
On a snow white Christmas Eve.
Goin' home to see her Mama an' her Daddy,
With the baby in the back seat.
Fifty miles to go an' she was running low,
On Faith and gasoline.
It'd been a long hard year.

She had a lot on her mind,
An' she didn't pay attention:
She was goin' way too fast.
An' before she knew it, she was spinnin',
On a thin black sheet of glass.
She saw both their lives flash before her eyes:
She didn't even have time to cry.
She was so scared, she threw her hands up in the air.

Jesus take the wheel,
Take it from my hands,
'Cause I can't do this on my own:
I'm letting go.
So give me one more chance,
To save me from this road I'm on:
Jesus take the wheel.

It was still getting colder when she made it to the shoulder,
An' the car came to a stop.
She cried when she saw that baby in the back seat,
Sleeping like a rock.
An' for the first time in a long time,
She bowed her head to pray.
She said: "I'm sorry for the way I've been living my life.
"I know I've got to change, so from now on, tonight,

Jesus take the wheel,
Take it from my hands,
'Cause I can't do this on my own:
I'm letting go.
So give me one more chance,
To save me from this road I'm on:
Jesus take the wheel.

I'm letting go,
So give me one more chance.
Save me from this road I'm on;
Jesus take the wheel.
Take it, take it from me

Time for personal reflection (Tour Week 7):

At this very moment, who is in the driver's seat of my life? Jesus or me? Am I battling to be a pilot, a co-pilot, or a passenger?

Jesus says a lot of things in this passage that most people don't like to hear:

Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead.

Don't run from suffering; embrace it.

Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.

This isn't pie in the sky by and by.

How many of these things did I not like hearing? Which one of these directives do I need to focus on now and in the remaining weeks of tour? What things would I much rather like to hear? How do they not fit into my life on tour right now?

“Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all.” - How many times have I turned to “self-help” books rather than God's word? How many times do I turn to friends rather than God? How many times in my life has it been demonstrated to me that “Self-help is no help at all?”

As we finish up the tour, what do I need to do to make sure that I let God “take the wheel” the rest of the summer and that I stay firmly planted in the passenger's seat? Does Jesus need to “go to work” on me? It has been a wild and crazy ride, how can I remember to relax and enjoy?

Time for personal reflection...

When I let God take control it feels....