

“Woe is me. My soul is lost”

These words come from a quote by Charles Spurgeon, known as the Prince of Preachers, who said, *“Imagine the horror of neglecting your soul. What will be the cry of a man when dying? He looks back on his whole life and says, ‘I was busy here and there. And I did nothing for Christ. My life is gone.’ And then he looks into the dim future and, seeing no brightness there, he cries, ‘Woe is me. My soul is lost. I tried to gain the whole world, and I’ve lost my soul. Everything that I did with so much toil and effort now turns out to be mere trifling. For my soul is lost forever and ever.’”* Then he added, *“May this dreadful ruin of soul, life, and everything never happen to any one of you.”* You see, Spurgeon was quoting Jesus, who said in **Matthew 16:26**: *“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”* To gain the whole world is to receive everything it has to offer: money, fame, pleasure, power, and prestige. To lose one’s soul is to die without a right relationship with Christ and to spend eternity in the lake of fire. Jesus was reminding us that nothing is worth more than one’s eternal soul. Rejecting Christ might bring temporary, earthly gains, but it comes at the worst possible price. Before asking the question above, Jesus said **Matthew 16:24-25**: *“Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.”* Jesus’ command to *“take up your cross and follow Me”* is not about carrying life’s burdens, such as physical illness, a difficult job, or strained relationships, but about surrendering our lives to God. Our discipleship requires a commitment to follow Jesus, even if it means facing loss, persecution, or death. We are willing to give up everything to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and worldly suffering shouldn’t be a deterrent. If a person rejects Jesus and becomes the richest, most powerful person on earth, they have still made a poor decision. Sooner or later, earthly things will fade away. And that person will have lost the only part of themselves that lasts forever. God’s judgment is coming. **Matthew 16:27**: *“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every person according to his deeds.”* Nothing is more valuable than a person’s soul. To trade it away is the height of foolishness. If we choose this world over heaven, we forfeit our souls. If we reject Christ for anything in this life, we will lose our souls. We may think we are gaining something, but we actually lose everything. Charles Spurgeon said it well, *“Woe is me. My soul is lost.”* If you are not a Christian and want to become one, pray and ask Jesus Christ to come and live in your heart. Pray: Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Savior. I believe you are the Son of the living God who came to earth, died on the cross, and paid the penalty for my sin. You offer me the wonderful truth of everlasting life and your presence if I put my trust in you. So right now, I do. I trust you with my whole heart, and I ask you to come into my life, change me, and save me. Amen.