

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Matthew 16: 21-end.

21. From that time forth, which was after those things aforesaid and before that which must be fulfilled, let the reader understand, began Jesus to shew unto His disciples how that He must go unto Jerusalem, taking the road avoiding Samaria so that none might be offended, and there suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and the temple vergers and sidespersons, and be killed on a Friday, and yet be raised again the third day afterwards. And Peter spake and said, Dost thou mean three days including the Friday or three days after the Friday? for he perceiveth that there could be some confusion when it came to future lectionaries. But Jesus made no answer so that they wondered. A lot.
22. And then Peter took Him to one side, and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee, for otherwise it shall not happen on a Sunday. And yet another thing. It is verily a bit of a spoiler unto us. No offence, like.
23. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me for thou hast not washed in a week. And thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men, even unto the deodorants that travel up from Egypt. And get thy beard trimmed. Mary will do it.
24. Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. It's a figure of speech, Thomas, so you don't have to worry about splinters. We haven't got to that bit of the story yet. And the disciples did start to shift uneasily and look at each other. And at the divers pieces of wood that were lying thereabouts.
25. And suddenly He continueth, For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. That's clear, is it not? And the disciples were mightily puzzled at this saying, for it was as clear as the mud in which He liked to draw. Even Matthew who was writing this down did suck his stylus at this point. And Jesus said,
26. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? No Thaddeus, that's not enough! The price be far above a young goat or two pigeons. And Thomas said, Then who can pay such a sum? And Jesus sighed at their obtuseness. And He said,
27. Right. Understand this, the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. And James did say, Firstly, isn't that a bit eschatological? And secondly, are not works without faith meaningless? for he did see here a theme he could develop in his letter.
28. And Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. Super-scary huh? I thought that would get your attention. And the disciples did cast glances at each other and John did ask, Is it I, Lord? but Jesus made no reply and did draw symbols upon the ground with His finger. And the disciples did not understand the writings. And it was muddy.