

Following Jesus to the Cross



Following Jesus (part 5)

Matthew 16:24-27

Review



- Following Jesus involves leaving behind that which is familiar and secure in order to pursue Him and the new life He has for us
- Following Jesus involves valuing Him and His Kingdom above any other allegiance
- Jesus calls us to trust Him to reach out and love others into the kingdom
- Nothing is too great to sacrifice in light of the privilege and rewards of following Jesus

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. 28 I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Command (v. 24)



Denying ourselves and taking up our crosses involves...

...saying no to our flesh and any desire that would keep us from following Jesus

- Galatians 5:16-26

Galatians 5:16-26

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The Command (v. 24)



Denying ourselves and taking up our crosses involves...

...saying no to our flesh and any desire that would keep us from following Jesus

- Galatians 5:16-26

The Command (v. 24)



Denying ourselves and taking up our crosses involves...

...relinquishing ownership of all our possessions & releasing all plans for the future

The Command (v. 24)



Denying ourselves and taking up our crosses involves...

...willingness to suffer shame and even to suffer hardship for the cause of Christ and the gospel

- John 15:19-20

The Command (v. 24)



Denying ourselves and taking up our crosses involves...

...adopting the above practices as a daily way of life

- Luke 9:23 “... he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.””

The Logic (vv. 25-26)



²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Promise (v. 27)



27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

conclusion



Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up
our crosses, and follow Him