

Taking Up Our Cross - Luke 9:23

*Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

*Matt. 16:23-27 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 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. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 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?*

*For 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.*

*Mark 8: 34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*Luke 14:25-27 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

A JUST REQUEST: Involves the purposeful decision to die completely to self and live for God. Without this decision being made personally, it would be impossible to take our cross (responsibility, purpose and motivation in Christ, without reservation).

Let Him Deny Himself - strengthened form of, meaning to "utterly deny, disown completely, argue vehemently against yourself as the ruler."

Peter: "I will not deny thee in any wise" / the same tenacity that Peter used to deny the Lord of Glory, we are to have in order to deny ourselves.

John the Baptist: "He must increase, but I must decrease"

Paul: "I die daily", and Galatians 2:20

Take up His Cross - to take personal possession of an important object. No one else can take this responsibility from the individual. It is undeniable. It is a play on words: the cross of sacrifice and suffering and a symbol of death.

Picture Jesus' willingness to carry the cross and bare His shame at Calvary. "No man taketh my life, I lay it down." He pressed toward the cross with vigor and purpose.

The cross pictures our willingness to sacrifice and suffer, and it is our symbol for death to self. Whenever God calls we will listen, never doubting, always look to Calvary. Our task can never compare to His, but it is a reflection of His work in our lives.

We must press toward the giving of ourselves in service for Christ! "Press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

"Follow me" - ακολουθειτω - be my personal companion: expresses union and likeness. Lit. "One going the same way", and it is often called discipleship. It is used 77 times in the Gospels, regarding following Christ.

"It is the personal, daily manifestation of Christ's person in your life." DEM If you follow Christ, you will honor God!

*John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."*

*John 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be; and if any man serve me, him will my Father honor."*