

RED Letters

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



LUKE 9:23-27

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

SELF-DENIAL

Garden of Eden - Genesis 3

- Self-indulgence – The fruit was good for food , pleasant to the eyes and desirable for gaining wisdom.
- Self-indulgence is a seed that gives birth to sin
- James 1:14-15 - But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
- Romans 6:23 - Wages of sin is death
- Romans 5:14

SELF-DENIAL

Self-denial is the cost of true discipleship.

“True godliness demands self-denial and cross-bearing – and if you have none of these, you’re making a false profession” - Charles Spurgeon

“In a world that says promote yourself , preserve yourself , entertain yourself, Jesus says “Slay yourself” – David Platt

WHAT ARE WE CALLED TO DENY?

- Family or friends
 - Luke 14:26 , 2 Timothy 3:2-7
- Desire for possessions or positions
 - Luke 18:18-23
- Favor of men
 - Galatians 1:10 , Luke 16:13
- Accomplishments
 - Philippians 3:7-9

SELF-DENIAL EMPOWERS US FOR SERVICE

- To love others
 - Philippians 2: 3-4 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility **value others above yourselves,** ⁴ **not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**
- To serve the Lord
 - Philippians 2:20-21 - “20 I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21 **for everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.**”
- For mission work

TAKE UP THE CROSS

LUKE 9:23-27

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up their cross daily and follow me**. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. 27 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Php 3:9-11 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and **may share his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 1 Cor 15:58

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Rejoice in tribulation – 1 Peter 4:12-14
- Rejoice in the Past
 - We are loved – John 3:16
 - Rom 6:5 - For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his;
 - Col 3:1-4

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Rejoice in the Present
 - Holiness & Sanctification – Romans 5:5, James 1:2–4
 - “Suffering reminds us that God sent his Son into the world to suffer so that our suffering would not be God’s condemnation but his purification” – John Piper

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Rejoice in the Present
 - Refines our faith in God - 1Pe 1:6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - God is with us – Matthew 28:20
 - His grace is sufficient for us - 2Co 12:9

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Rejoice in the Future
 - For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels

TAKE UP THE CROSS

- Rejoice in the Future
 - Let's keep our eyes on the Eternal - Heb 12:2
 - Afflictions are momentary - 2Cor 4:17 -18
 - We long for an imperishable crown – 1 Cor 9:25; Hebrews 11:13-16

RED Letters

