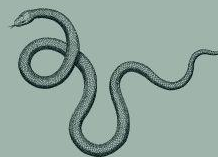




Sharing Truth Unhindered

Season of Persecution
Evangelism Series Part 38



Matthew 10:32-39

32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, **33** but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. **34** “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. **36** And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. **37** Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38** And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Luke 9:23-24

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross *daily* and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake *and the gospel's* will save it.

Hindrance of Self-Indulgence

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me
is not worthy of me.



“ ———
|
Jesus was speaking about a death
to a whole way of life;
he was talking about
the utmost in self-sacrifice,
a very death to selfishness
and all forms of self-seeking.

-Leon Morris

————— ”

“ —

What are our crosses?

They are not simply trials or hardships.

Some think of a nutty boss or an unfair teacher or a bossy mother-in-law as a cross. But they are not.

Neither can we properly call an illness or a handicap a cross. A cross results from specifically walking in Christ's steps, embracing his life. It comes from bearing disdain because we are following the narrow way of Jesus Christ, 'the way and the truth and the life.'”

-R. Kent Hughes

— ”

“ —

There are a lot of people who don't believe a cross is a choice, but something that happens to them, making them a victim. When you hear people say,

‘This is my cross to bear,’

a lot of times they are talking about their health, or their spouse, or their children, or some kind of circumstance that is a burden to them. These things may be legitimate challenges in a Christian's life, but they are not crosses. Circumstances may be painful like a cross and they may be a burden like a cross, but they themselves are not crosses, for a cross is something that is to be picked up willingly.

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“ ———

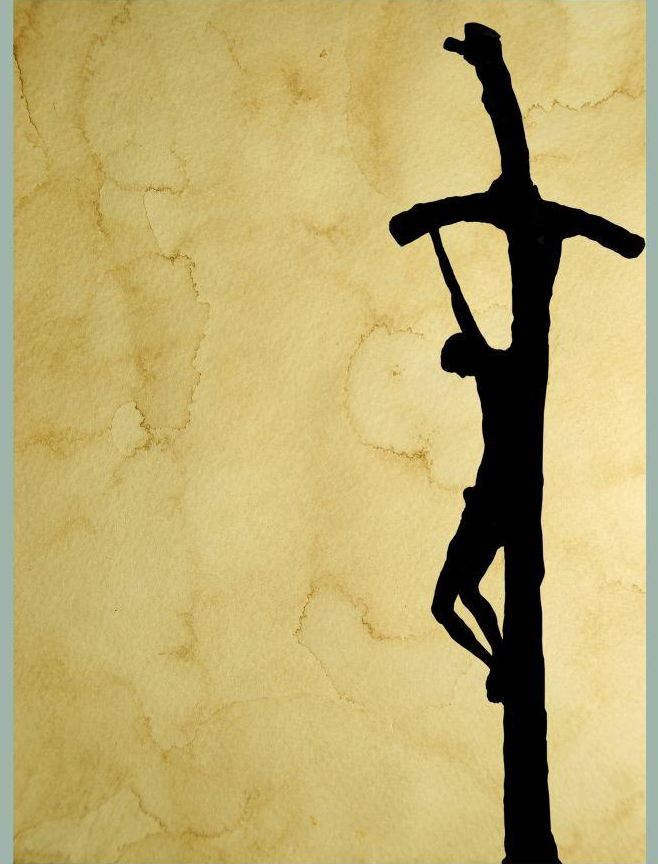
A cross is something that requires us to deny our way of doing things and to choose God’s way of doing things. It is saying ‘no’ to our stubborn will and surrendering to God’s sovereign will. Tough circumstances provide plenty of opportunities to pick up our cross, but the circumstance itself is not a cross, it’s only an opportunity to choose one.

-Josh Black

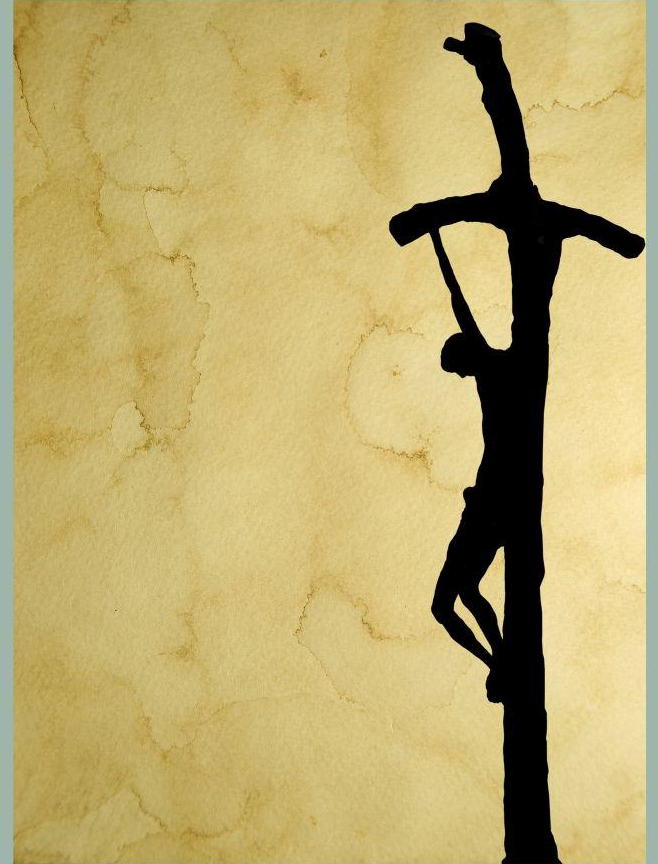
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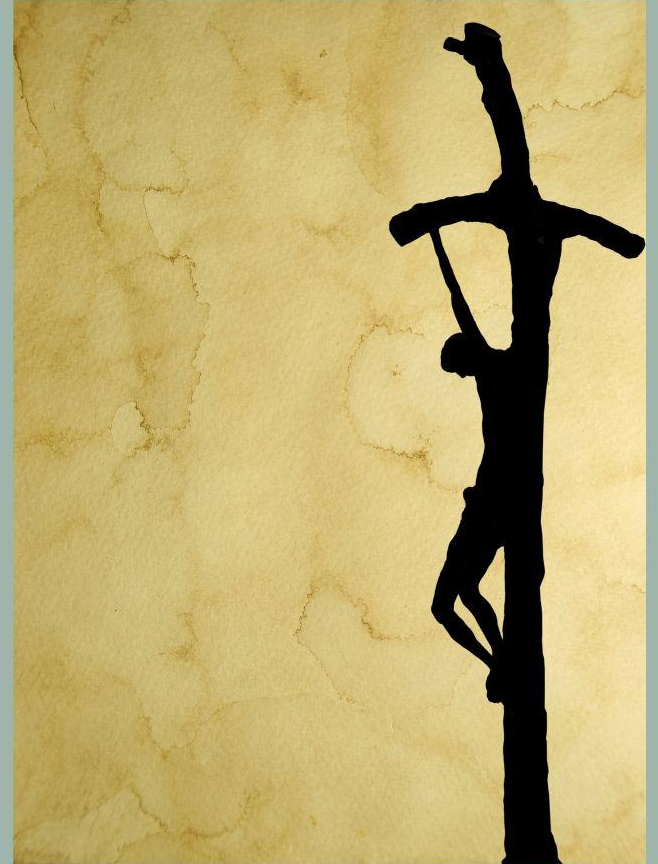
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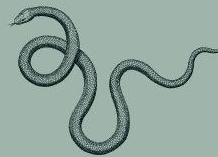


- Faces one direction
- No going back to old life



- Faces one direction
- No going back to old life
- Doesn't make own plans





Galatians 5:16-17

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For 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.

“ —

Denying oneself is not a matter of giving up something,
whether for Lent or for the whole of life:
it is a decisive saying “No” to oneself,
to one’s hopes and plans and ambitions,
to one’s likes and dislikes,
to one’s nearest and dearest,
for the sake of Christ.

-F.F. Bruce

— ”

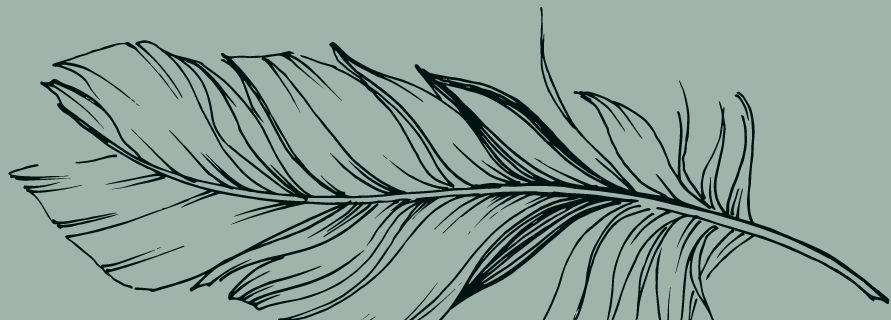
“ —
|
There are no crown-wearers in heaven
who were not cross-bearers here below.

-C.H. Spurgeon

|
— ”

Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means...

- losing some of your closest friends
- alienation from your family
- loss of reputation
- loss of job
- loss of life



“ —

1. I am deliberately to take it up.

Not to choose a cross, or pine after another form of trial.

Not to make a cross, by petulance and obstinacy.

Not to murmur at the cross appointed me.

Not to despise it, by callous stoicism,
or willful neglect of duty.

Not to faint under it,
fall beneath it, or run from it.

— ”

“ —
|

2. I am boldly to face it.
It is only a wooden cross after all.



|
— ”

“ —
|

3. I am patiently to endure it,
for I have only to carry it a little way.



|
— ”

“ —
|

4. I am cheerfully to resign myself to it,
for my Lord appoints it.



|
— ”

“ —
|
5. I am obediently to follow Christ with it.

What an honor and a comfort to be treading in his steps!

This is the essential point.

It is not enough to bear a cross,
we must bear it after Jesus.

-C.H. Spurgeon

— ”

Hindrance of Self-Preservation

Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

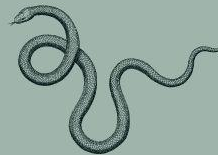




"Life"

Gk. *Psyche*

refers to the way a person reasons,
thinks, feels, and identifies
themselves



hello
MY NAME IS

