



A CARPENTER,
A CROSS & A CROWN

A Series through the life of Christ

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Luke 9

57 As they were walking along the road, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow You wherever You go."

58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Luke 9

59 Then He said to another man, "Follow Me." "Lord," the man replied, "first let me go and bury my father."

60 But Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead. You, however, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9

61 And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first allow me to bid farewell to those at my home."

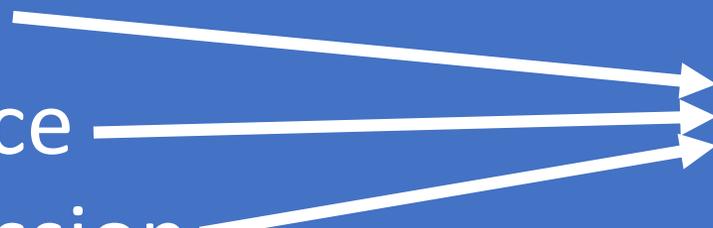
62 Then Jesus declared, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:23 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?

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

1. Self-denial
2. Self-sacrifice
3. Self-submission



Saving your life

John 2

23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.

24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. 25 He did not need any testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man.

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Matthew 10

16 “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.

17 Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.

18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,

22 You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.

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Man #1 – Future comfort & security

- If you received zero benefit in this life from following Christ, is He still worth it?
- If you knew that your upcoming years in service for Him would be very difficult, is He still worth it?

1 Peter 2

21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” [Isaiah 53:9]

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

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Man #2 – Present responsibilities & situations

- Do you ever find yourself negotiating with God?
- Are you looking to some future time when you can finally be “really committed” Christ?

Luke 14

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Colossians 3

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

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Man #3 – Past entanglements

- Do people, places, and habits from my past distract me from being wholly committed to Christ?
- Do I live daily with a realization that I am a new creation in Christ and the old man is gone?

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



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