Take Up Your Cross

Caleb Schmidt · Luke 9:18–24

INTRODUCTION

- Often in our teaching of the gospel and in our understanding of Christ, we first emphasize what Christ gives to us. Yet in so doing, we turn our role as Christians into one of receiving rather than one of giving.
- Our life as Christians is nothing but sacrifice, selfless serving sacrifice.
- Do we follow a Christ who meets our needs, who stirs our spirits, who fills us with emotion, or makes us comfortable or gives us friends and family? Or do we follow a crucified Christ?

1 Jesus Came to Be a Crucified Christ

Luke 9:18–22

- The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chiefs, priests, and scribes, and be killed. And on the third day, raised.
- Jesus here is defining what it is going to look like for him to be the Christ.
- Jesus shows us that he did not come to shower us with blessings, but that he came to take away our sins.
- Knowing Christ as a crucified Savior is critical for us because it impacts how we choose to follow him.

2 Whoever Loses His Life for My Sake Will Save It

Luke 9:24

- The price of following him is too high to do without considering what it's going to cost.
- The world would tell us that life and the meaning of it is found in the pursuit of following after our heart and satisfying our own desires.
- When we sacrifice for our desires, ultimately our desires will never be fulfilled.
- The only sacrifice we can make that will be redeemed to us … is a sacrifice made for Christ, and for the kingdom of God, which will not perish.
- We choose to follow Christ not because the cost is so high, but because the cost of not following him is greater.

3 Self-Denial Is the Gospel

- The way to gain our life is through self-denial is not going to be simply a part of the gospel. Self-denial is the gospel.
- We can deny ourselves, seek after his will, and find meaning and fulfillment in our lives.
- The better path towards real joy is found when you stop thinking about yourself and start thinking about others.

- Sin causes us to think about ourselves. So the answer to sin is found in thinking about God and others.
- Every sin in a fundamental sense is just a manifestation of too much selfishness.

4 Take Up Your Cross Daily

Luke 9:23

- Bearing your cross is a voluntary journey towards your own death. It is the ultimate form of self-denial.
- Every day, we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross, put ourselves to death, and submit to his will, not our own.
- It means committing yourself to service of God and others rather than yourself.
- You put your spouse first. You put your family first, you put your church family first.
- We use our body not for our own pleasure, but for the glorification of God.

5 Follow Me

- When Jesus called his disciples to follow after him, each one of them left everything behind, knowing that to follow him was worth more than anything that they could have on earth.
- When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.
- We ought to look at Jesus' invitation to follow Him and deny ourselves as the greatest blessing ever bestowed on us.

THE CHALLENGE

If you are a Christian, and your life has not been about self-denial, you've been following after a Christ other than the crucified Christ.

MY NOTES