

Luke 9:23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luk 9:23 ESV)

Luke 14:27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Matthew 16:24-27 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.

Mark 8:34 Then Jesus called the crowd, along with his disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it. For what benefit is it for a person to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his life? <sup>37</sup> What can a person give in exchange for his life? For if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

I. What do we see?

- A. Jesus is setting forth the conditions for discipleship/ being his follower
  - 1. Jesus did not want his own to misunderstand what kind of life was required
  - 2. This life is contrary to the health, wealth & prosperity that many preach
- B. Discipleship is a "daily" life action/outlook
  - 1. This is not just for the clergy or elders, but for each one
  - 2. Many church participants are content to be just listeners
    - a. They gain a lot of knowledge, but they never put truth into practice
    - b. Beware!!! To whom much is given, much is required
  - 3. Anyone who wants to be a follower of Jesus Christ, must unite with him
- C. Conditions of being the Lord's:
  - 1. Self-renunciation
    - a. Put Christ in the place of self
    - b. Christ sits on the throne of our life
  - 2. Cross-bearing - a journey in the cross
    - a. To surrender, suffer, and sacrifice with Christ
    - b. To endure whatever may come from following Christ
    - c. Everyone has a - "his cross"
    - d. Self-denial & cross bearing are hard lessons to learn
- D. Follow me - let him led - never get ahead of his

1 Psalm 37:23 The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.