

THE COST



“BEARING YOUR CROSS...”

- Literally an instrument of death
- Symbolically - Love and sacrifice
- **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS - LK 9:23**
 - Necessary to literally die for Jesus
 - Sacrifice ourselves for Him (self-denial)
 - Gal 2:20 - Christ lives in me
 - Gal 5:24 - Crucify the flesh
 - Gal 6:14 - Boast in the cross

(Luke 9:23-25 KJV) "And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. {24} For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. {25} For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?"

(Gal 2:20 KJV) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

(Gal 5:24 KJV) "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

(Gal 6:14 KJV) "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

VOLUNTARY

- **JESUS DID NOT HAVE TO DIE**
 - Jn 10:17-18 - Power to choose
 - Jesus freely GAVE His life
- **YOU DECIDE IF YOU WILL CARRY**
 - Rom 12:1 - Our bodies, holy sacrifice
 - Luke 9:23-24 - Deny self...follow Jesus
- **FOLLOWING CHRIST IS NOT MANDATORY, MANY CHOOSE NOT TO**

(John 10:17-18 KJV) "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. {18} No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

(Rom 12:1 KJV) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*"

(Luke 9:23-24 KJV) "And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. {24} For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

COMPLETE (TOTAL)

- **JESUS HELD BACK NOTHING**
 - **Mat 26:39 - Not as I will, but as thou wilt**
- **YOUR SURRENDER TO THE LORD MUST BE UNLIMITED AND TOTAL**
 - **Mat 13:45-46 - Pearl of great price**
 - **Lk 9:62 - Looking back is not acceptable**
 - **1 Cor 6:19-20 - Body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, purchased by Christ, owned by God**

(Mat 26:39 KJV) "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*."

(Mat 13:45-46 KJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: {46} Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

(Luke 9:62 KJV) "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

(1 Cor 6:19-20 KJV) "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST?

- **LK 14:26-33 - FORSAKE ALL**
- **OUR COMMITMENT TO THE LORD:**
 - Personal relationship with God
 - Family of God, His church
 - Lost people of the world

(Luke 14:26-33 KJV) "If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. {27} And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. {28} For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? {29} Lest haply,

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after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, {30} Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. {31} Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? {32} Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an

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ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. {33} So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."