

## THE COST

### THE WORD “CROSS” IS USED IN TWO SIGNIFICANT WAYS:

- **LITERALLY** – an instrument of death, the place where criminals were hanged by nails until they died, a method of capital punishment.
- **SYMBOLICALLY** – Because it is the place where Jesus Christ, an innocent man, died for the sins of mankind, it also signifies love – the sacrifice of oneself for others.

### TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

- **(Luke 9:23 KJV)** "And he said to them all, If any man will \_\_\_\_\_, let him \_\_\_\_\_, and take up his \_\_\_\_\_ daily, and follow me."
- In Luke 9:23, to take up our cross for Jesus means both of these.
- It might be necessary to literally die for Jesus
- Mostly, Jesus is saying that we must sacrifice ourselves for him (self-denial).
  - **(Gal 2:20 KJV)** "I am \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but \_\_\_\_\_: 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 \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh with the affections and \_\_\_\_\_."
  - **(Gal 6:14 KJV)** "But God forbid that I should \_\_\_\_\_, save in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

- ✓ To take up the cross means to deny yourself and the lusts of this world
- ✓ It is not my life but Christ's who lives inside of me
- ✓ This is just one of the areas of our lives where we are to model our lives after the perfect pattern of Jesus

Let's notice two things about the cross of Jesus that we MUST be willing to imitate:

### VOLUNTARY

- Jesus did not HAVE to go to the cross. He could have said "no"
  - **(John 10:17-18 KJV)** "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_, that I might \_\_\_\_\_ it again. {18} No \_\_\_\_\_ taketh it from me, but I lay it down of \_\_\_\_\_. I have \_\_\_\_\_ to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This \_\_\_\_\_ have I received of my \_\_\_\_\_."
  - He GAVE His life
- Your "cross to bear" is not something over which you have no control. You decide whether you will carry this cross
  - **(Rom 12:1 KJV)** "I beseech you therefore, \_\_\_\_\_, by the mercies of God, that ye present your \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable \_\_\_\_\_."
  - **Luke 9:23** - If any man will come after me, let him deny himself...
- Because following Christ is not mandatory, many choose not to.

### COMPLETE (TOTAL)

- Jesus held back nothing in order to obey the Father's will
  - **(Mat 26:39 KJV)** "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be \_\_\_\_\_, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as \_\_\_\_\_, but as thou wilt."
- Your surrender to the Lord must be unlimited and total. Nothing can stand between you and the Lord
  - **(Mat 13:45-46 KJV)** "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a \_\_\_\_\_ man, seeking goodly \_\_\_\_\_; {46} Who, when he had found one pearl of great \_\_\_\_\_, went and \_\_\_\_\_ all that he had, and \_\_\_\_\_ it."

- **(Luke 9:62 KJV)** "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, and looking \_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_ for the kingdom of God."
- **(1 Cor 6:19-20 KJV)** "What? know ye not that your \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your \_\_\_\_\_? {20} For ye are \_\_\_\_\_ with a price: therefore \_\_\_\_\_ God in your \_\_\_\_\_, and in your \_\_\_\_\_, which are God's."

- ✓ It was Jesus' choice to lay down His life
- ✓ You were bought with the price of Jesus' blood
- ✓ Submit to God's will; not your own
- ✓ No one is fit for the Kingdom if they long after their old life

## CONCLUSION

Deciding to become a disciple of Jesus is serious business and not something to be taken lightly.

- **(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 \_\_\_\_\_ also, he cannot be my \_\_\_\_\_. {27} And whosoever doth not bear his \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, whether he have sufficient to finish it? {29} Lest haply, after he hath laid the \_\_\_\_\_, 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 ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. {33} So likewise, whosoever he be of you that \_\_\_\_\_ not all that he hath, he \_\_\_\_\_ be my disciple."

Our commitment to the Lord can be divided up into three general areas:

- ✓ A commitment to a personal relationship with God (one on one)
- ✓ A commitment to the family of God, His church (encouragement, fellowship, worship)
- ✓ A commitment to the lost people of the world who don't know Jesus (teach the lost)

Consider this decision seriously.

--Roger Hillis