

WHAT DOES A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

Luke 9:23-26

Some seeming Christians walk away from Christ saying “its not what I expected.” How will you stay the course? What do you expect? The path to glory comes by way of the cross.

1.A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST DENIES HIMSELF DAILY

- Jesus says we are to deny ourselves. *“When Jesus calls a man, He bids Him to come die.”* Christ and self are placed as opposites. *“Self is Christ’s greatest rival in the world.” - Thomas Boston.* We have to put to death all that is against Christ’s rule, especially ourselves, our selfish agendas, desires, and opinions – Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14.
- The greatest need of our churches is for pastors and leaders to be godly. Fathers – our family’s greatest need is for your godliness.

2.A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST TAKES UP HIS CROSS

- The cross meant to go the way of suffering and death with no going back. We burn our ships. We are to embrace whatever suffering God calls us to bear following Jesus.
- God will bring a cross in your life. It is to be taken up daily- 1 Corinthians 15:31. A Cross will always be present. God chooses the cross you will carry – “his cross”. Everyone must take up his own cross. Jesus sets us the example of taking up His cross – Luke 9:22. Jesus asks His followers to follow in His steps. Only through suffering comes glory.
- The cross is given for the destruction of the old life, that which resists Christ’s rule. Even being in control or being a people pleaser...

3.A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST VALUES JESUS ABOVE EVERYTHING

- **Jesus is more valuable than our life** – John 12:25. Your life is more valuable than the whole world. If you have all world and lose your soul, you have lost everything! Keepers are losers. Losers are keepers.
- **Jesus is more valuable than the whole world.** But Jesus Christ is more valuable than your life. Jesus is the Pearl of Great Price and the Greatest Treasure – Matthew 13:44-46
- Is Jesus Christ more than all the world to you and more than life to you? - Psalm 63:3. *“If we would be disciples, and make disciples, we must be laser-focused on Jesus Christ...Discipleship is the overflow of love for Jesus.” – Colin Smith.*

4. A FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS NOT ASHAMED OF JESUS

- When you love Jesus more than anything you will not be ashamed of Him. He is your greatest treasure and delight. Don’t be ashamed to stand on His truth, to obey His Word, and go His way, even when others laugh or mock. There is a greater glory coming! – 1 John 2:28; 2 Timothy 1:8; 4:1,2.

Concluding Applications:

- What do you need to say NO to today in order to honor Christ?
- Are you willing to surrender daily to Christ out of love for your Savior and King?