

Centered by the Cross

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES

SERMON NOTES

Luke 9:18-22

I. What It Means to “Take Up Our Cross and Follow Jesus,” (Luke 9:23-26)

A. This is a Message for All People – “And He was saying to them all...,” (v. 23a)

1. Society divides people into various groups which it labels, and then control.

B. It Comes Down to the Greatest Desires of Our Heart, “If anyone wishes to come after Me...,” (v. 23b)

1. For Christians, our deepest desire is to have a close, peaceful relationship w/Jesus (to “come after Me”).

John 3:14

John 12:32

2. Now when it comes to people’s personal “wishes,” these primarily only about two categories...

Luke 9:24

Revelation 3:16-17

Luke 9:25

C. The Greatest Obstacle to Our Achieving Our Desires ... _____! “Let him deny himself...,” (v. 23c)

1. “Self-Denial” runs counter to everything we are taught in this country!

2. You see, “self-denial” is the main point of Jesus’ Message, His Ministry, and His Life...

Matthew 5:3

Mark 3:20

Philippians 2:6-7

D. The Weight of Achieving this Desire is Heavy . . . “Let him take up his cross daily & follow Me,” (v. 23d)

1. Accepting Jesus death on a cross for my sins is something I can do. But wait a minute . . . !

2. In **Romans 6:11-13**, Paul describes what he means to, “*take up our cross [and die] daily*”!!!

v. 11

Romans 6:1-2

v. 12

2 Peter 2:19

v. 13

3. The cross was not only an instrument of DEATH but also one of SHAME
a. This was the literal experience of the one being crucified.

John 19:23

Luke 9:26

Matthew 10:32

CONCLUSIONS: The purpose of the cross was to execute people in the most excruciatingly painful way possible.

1. Yet Jesus is calling us to a “cruciformed” lifestyle (this is the “*and follow Me*”). It begins with a decision...

Romans 6:3

Romans 6:4

Romans 6:5