

# 1-Take Up Your Cross

3/5/2023

## INTRO:

### I. → Mark 8:34-37

*34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.***

*→ 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their **soul**? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their **soul**?*

### II. THE TRAUMA OF THE CROSS

A. "If Jesus had been killed twenty years ago, Catholic school children would be wearing little electric chairs around their necks instead of crosses."—*Lenny Bruce*

B. "To bind a Roman citizen is a crime, to flog him an abomination, to slay him is almost an act of murder, to crucify him is—what? There is not a fitting word that can possibly describe so horrible a deed."—*Cicero*

## BODY:

### I. Denying Yourself

Grk (*aparnéomai*) deny, disavow self

A. The cross demands we say goodbye to living for ourselves.

#### 1) Galatians 6:14

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

#### 2) JIM ELLIOT'S JOURNAL, OCTOBER 28, 1949, 21 YEARS

1) "He is not fool who give what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

2) Refused to take a gun along

3) Killed by the Waodani people on January 8, 1956

B. The cross means leaving our old life behind for good.

1) **Romans 6:6-7**

*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.*

2) "I've had hiccups. I've had some tragic times. I have wrestled with those and worked my way through them: sometimes rejecting faith, sometimes rejecting God even, in a period of being pretty angry about it, like, "Where were you?" That kind of thing. But I have come to terms with it and have found great peace in my faith and in Jesus. It's not cavalier – Jesus made a difference in my life. That's not anything I'll apologize for."—Kelsey Grammer, USA Today

## II. Taking Up Your Cross

A. The cross requires we put our lives in the Father's hands.

1) **John 19:16-18**

*So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 **Carrying his own cross**, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).*

2) **CRIMINALS CARRYING THEIR OWN CROSSES**

3) **LUTHER: THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS VS. GLORY**

B. The cross makes it impossible save our own selves.

1) **John 21:18**

*"Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."*

2) **PETER CRUCIFIED UPSIDE DOWN**

### III. Following the Way of Jesus

Grk (*akolouthéo*) follow the way, take the same road

36 *What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?*

A. The cross is about losing our life in order to find it.

1) **1 Peter 2:24**

*“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”*

2) **BLACK WIDOW SACRIFICING HERSELF**

B. Jesus told us about sacrifice and then He showed us.

1) **Galatians 2:20-21**

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

2) **WE ALL HAVE A CROSS TO BEAR**

## **OTHER SCRIPTURES:**

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

Matthew 27:32

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon,  
and they forced him to carry the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5

4 Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.