

“His Cross, my Cross!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Jr. High Power Point** – July 9-14 (Forest Home Christian Camp in Ojai Valley)
- 1.2. **Family Camp Power Point** – July 17-22 (C.C. Twin Peaks Conf Center)
- 1.3. **Timing** – The teaching in Jn.6 had turned Christ’s popularity & had increased the opposition in Galilee, so the character of His ministry underwent a change at this point.¹
 - 1.3.1. He abandoned the performance of **miracles** & devoted Himself to the **12 Apostles**.
 - 1.3.2. **Together they took longer journeys to Tyre & Sidon.**
 - 1.3.3. **And now they take off for a long walk up north to Caesarea Philippi.**

2. **MESSIAHSHIP CONFESSED! (18-20)**

- 2.1. At this stage of their understanding the disciples saw Jesus as the Messiah of popular Jewish expectations.
- 2.2. (18) **He was alone praying** –
 - 2.2.1. Only Luke puts this in the context of Jesus’ prayer life.
 - 2.2.2. There are 7 x’s Luke shows Jesus praying. Each at major crossroads in His life.
 - 2.2.2.1. **Before His baptism; when His fame was growing abroad; before He chose the 12; here, at Caesarea Philippi; in connection w/the Transfiguration; when He gave His disciples instructions on prayer; in Gethsemane.**
 - 2.2.3. **Ever notice** Jesus praying “with” his disciples? Maybe He did? But, maybe He prayed on such a different level, such a pure, in perfect fellowship.
- 2.3. (18b) **Who do the crowds say that I am?**
- 2.4. Jesus said unto them, **“Who do you say I am?”** And they replied, *“You are the eschatological manifestation of the foundation of our being, the kerygma (ker-IG-ma) in which we found the ultimate meaning of our interpersonal relationship.”* **And Jesus said, “Come again?”**
- 2.5. **Not:** who do the rulers, or priests, or kings, or the governors, say that I am.
 - 2.5.1. **He was concerned about the people!**

¹ Griffith Thomas; pg.160.

- 2.6. **Answer:** John the Baptist; Elijah; or, one of the old prophets.
- 2.6.1. This revealed they at least thought there was something **special** even **supernatural** with Him!
- 2.7. (20) **Who do you say that I am?** – Do you agree w/these reports?
- 2.8. Jesus wanted the 12 to have not the opinions of the crowd, but rather personal convictions of their own.
- 2.8.1. **Q:** Do you look for the **popular opinion** or the **apostolic position**?
- 2.9. (20b) **The Christ of God!** - How simple.

3. **HIS CROSS DECLARED! (21-22)**

- 3.1. (21) **Don't tell** – because they didn't completely understand it? They weren't ready?
- 3.2. This is the **1st time** he tells them plainly He would be killed & resurrected.
- 3.3. Matthew tells us that Peter opposed the plan (“*not so Lord*”).
- 3.3.1. Peter was a saved man, but **he knew little about** discipleship, taking up a cross, & following Jesus.

4. **DISCIPLESHIP DEMANDED! (23-26)**

- 4.1. Confession of Christ as Messiah is step #1. Step #2 is discipleship.
- 4.1.1. It is **not** enough to know the truth about His Messiahship, they must **conform to His program**.
- 4.2. **Discipleship** – Learner or pupil.
- 4.2.1. It referred to the adherent of a particular teacher or religious/philosophical school.²
- 4.2.2. **Disciples of the rabbis could select their teachers.**
- 4.2.3. Jesus often demanded **extreme levels** of personal renunciation.
- 4.2.3.1. i.e. loss of family, property, etc.
- 4.2.4. He also asked for **lifelong allegiance** as the essential means of doing the will of God.
- 4.3. **Results of Discipleship?**
- 4.3.1. That we grow to experience the **abundant** new life.
- 4.3.2. That we “*bear the family resemblance*” of His Son.
- 4.3.3. That we express the very stamp of God's own heredity.
- 4.4. **Salvation** is God's gift to us because Jesus died for us on the cross.
Discipleship is our gift to Him as we take up our cross, die to self, & follow the Lord in everything.

² Shepherd's Notes; pg.35

- 4.5. **[1] Deny himself** - not think about his own good.
- 4.6. **Doesn't mean:** Self-rejection, self-loathing, or turning away from everything you enjoy because, *"If you like it, it must be bad!"*
- 4.6.1. 1 Tim.6:17 God **"gives us richly all things to enjoy."**
- 4.7. Not denial *to* self, but denial *of* self!
- 4.7.1. **Deny everything rooted in the old life.**
- 4.8. **[2] Take up his cross daily**, that is, admit that the One for whom he carried the cross was right.
- 4.8.1. When the Roman Empire crucified a criminal or captive, the victim was often forced to **carry his cross** part of the way to the crucifixion site.
- 4.8.1.1. Carrying his cross through the heart of the city was the admission that the Roman Empire was correct in the sentence of death imposed on you, & that **Rome was right and you were wrong.**
- 4.8.1.2. So when Jesus enjoined His followers to carry their crosses and follow Him, He was referring to a **public display before others that Jesus was right** and that the disciples were following Him even to their deaths. This is exactly what the religious leaders refused to do.³
- 4.9. Some define our cross to bear as personal tendency's: Like, **your temper** you struggle with, or **your battle with constant worry.**
- 4.9.1. ***These aren't crosses, but sins!***
- 4.10. It meant surrendering one's will to God and so "losing" the old life in exchange for one that is different and new.
- 4.11. Your cross is God's unique will for **you!** [He didn't say, take up MY cross!]
- 4.11.1. It's saying, ***"whatever thou wilt Lord; wherever thou wilt; whenever thou wilt!"*** (Richard Baxter)
- 4.12. **Daily** – Each day, every day, you are to decide to do God's will.
- 4.13. "If you're not going to carry your cross, don't make the trip." - James Dobson
- 4.14. **[3] Follow Jesus.**
- 4.15. No doubt many thought the disciples were **throwing their lives away.** They had given up their **sources of income** and were in danger because they **associated with Jesus.**
- 4.15.1. Jesus **assured** His disciples that they were **doing the right thing.**
- 4.15.2. They had chosen the **proper values.**

³Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:243). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- 4.16. Phillips, *“If anyone wants to follow in My footsteps, he must give up all right to himself, carry his cross every day & keep close behind me.”*
- 4.17. The Message, *“Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat—I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self.”*
- 4.18. This is both **the way & the necessity** of discipleship!⁴
- 4.19. I guess the **opposite** of this would be: to embrace your “self”, lay down any cross that comes your way, follow your heart, & do all to try to save your old life!
- 4.20. (24) **Loses His life...will save it!** (Divine paradox!)
- 4.20.1. What we gain in following Jesus is far more than we lose.
- 4.21. Drifting snow and bitter cold threatened the lives of Indian evangelist Sadhu Sundar Singh and his Tibetan companion as they crossed a Himalayan mountain pass. Fighting the "sleep of death", they stumbled over a mound in the trail. It was a man, half dead. The Tibetan refused to stop but continued on alone. The compassionate Sadhu, however, shouldered the burden the best he could. Through his struggling, he began to warm up, as did the unconscious man. But before reaching the village they found the Tibetan -- frozen to death. The principles that Jesus taught are still true: whoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it!
- 4.22. (25) **Gains the whole world...is himself destroyed or lost.**
- 4.22.1. The **potential self** can be lost.
- 4.22.2. We can choose to live the old life, & let the new remain un nourished, buried deep w/in us.
- 4.22.3. If we choose this route what we lose is ourselves, the person we could have been.
- 4.23. (26) **Ashamed?**
- 4.24. If I am ashamed of Him I am ashamed of everything pure, high, noble, beautiful!
- 4.25. **End: Earlier** we saw a great choice each person must make: *“Will I accept Jesus’ offer of life?”* - **Now** we see a 2nd choice: *“Will I become a disciple, put the old life behind me, & become new?”*
- 4.25.1. **Q:** Will you lose your old life, or are you determined to hold tightly to it, to try & save your “self”?
- 4.25.2. **Q:** Or, will you let go, turn away from the old for Jesus’ sake, & in so doing become the new, the true you?

⁴ The Teachers Commentary.

- 4.26. Lord, I'll take **any** cross that you have for me...**but** do you have any that are **padded**? I'm looking to be relevant you know.
- No**, how about a **small one** I could fit in my pocket, so I'm not so obvious?
- No**, my choice is just that **ugly wood one**? That's pretty shoddy workmanship; my construction buddy's will laugh.
- What's that?** It's either one of these or forget the whole thing? But Lord, I want to be your disciple, I mean, just being with you; that's all that counts; but life has to have a balance, too. But you don't understand -- nobody lives that way today! Who is going to be attracted by this self-denial bit? I mean, I want to; but let's not over do it. Start getting radical like this, and they'll have me off to the insane asylum. Know what I mean?
- I mean being a disciple is challenging and exciting and I want to do it; but I do have some rights, you know. Now let's see -- no blood -- OK? I just can't stand the thought of that, Lord... Lord? Jesus? Now where do you suppose He went?