

Matthew 10:38

"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

If there was one thing that Jesus never did, it was to water down the truth or to lie. He always spoke the truth as it was. Many people actually hated Him when He walked this earth, because He spoke the truth with such conviction and honesty. Here is a perfect example of His honesty, **"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.** What does it mean to take your cross and follow Jesus? Is this simply some religious lifeless statement that we ignore, or perhaps could it be that it is the very truth by which each of us are measured or weighed, by our Lord? Being a Christian is choosing to die to yourself, to your dreams, to your goals, to your standards. Then placing Jesus Christ before yourself! Not just for a day or a season, but for the rest of your life here on planet earth.

Please understand something here, Jesus the Son of God, whom the Bible says that knew no sin; He came to this earth to take on the sin of every man and woman who would ever repent and ask Him to be their Lord and Savior. He died a very brutal death, and for the very first time in all of time, He was separated from His Father. He did this for you and for me! He didn't have to, and He was never even personally guilty for the consequences of sin for which He died for. But He chose to obey His Father, and to die that we might be able to not only spend eternity with the God Head, but to daily bathe in His presence here as well.

This gift was never free! It cost our Lord His very life. To be a Christian, it also comes at a great cost to each of us. The cross was a brutal instrument of death in Jesus' day. It was not a religious symbol as it is today. People, who lived under Roman rule, often saw the agonizing death that many suffered through the cross. So why would the Lord ever want you and I to daily take up our cross, especially if it is seen as something so distasteful and costly? Because to think that being a Christian is only for your personal gain, is deception. Being a Christian truly costs everything my dear friend. But the rewards are well worth whatever you may face in this life. Look at the Apostle Paul's personal outlook on this very subject of cost towards Christ, in **Philippians 3:8, More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.**

What about you dear friend? Do you daily take up your cross and follow Jesus Christ; or are you like many people in churches across our land, that think that Christianity is all about them? Have you chosen to lay down your life for your Lord; that you may take up His plan for your life? We are told that we cannot serve two masters, either Jesus is your Lord, or you are. I exhort you to surrender everything to Him today, and to take up your cross and follow the King of Kings! Amen.