

I was shopping online for Christmas this week and in my search, I saw a huge assortment of jewelry with crosses (necklaces, rings, earrings and bracelets), then I saw a variety of T-Shirts with crosses. Wow! So many!

This made me stop and think about our teaching this week as Jesus journeyed step after step to the cross of Calvary. Jesus had said to those following Him earlier, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?” (Luke 9:23-25)

If one puts on a necklace with a cross – is this what Jesus meant when He said “take up his cross daily and follow me.”? If being a disciple of Jesus was as simple as putting on a necklace then it would be pretty easy – wouldn’t it? I could put on a T-Shirt with a cross and as I walked around everyone would see, I claim to be a follower of Jesus. Do you think this is what Jesus meant when He said, “take up his cross daily and follow me.”? No, it is not. To understand what Jesus meant, we need to understand what “take up his cross daily and follow me” meant to Jesus. The Apostle Paul gives us the answer, he said, Jesus was God who gave up His divine position in heaven, He⁷ “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant ...⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:7-8) That’s what taking up the cross meant to Jesus! It meant dying for all people.

I am not saying there is anything wrong with wearing a necklace or T-Shirt with a cross. But let them remind you of why Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He died that you might have life with God. Taking up the cross of Christ is not

easy because the world does not want you to love God more than the things of the world. Living and walking the narrow path of Christ is not easy, but it has the greatest of all rewards.

Let me pray for us. Heavenly Father, we are thankful that Jesus was willing to take up the cross and die for our sins. As His disciples, help us take up the cross of Christ, daily and forsake the things of the world for the things of God and heaven. In Jesus powerful and might name we pray. Amen!

Following Jesus

Dot to Dot



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Following Jesus

Word Search

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:22-28 (NIV)



X	M	V	Q	X	O	V	J	W	J	O	U	Z	E	X
Q	Z	P	E	P	F	Y	A	B	W	M	P	R	X	W
E	F	V	A	L	F	O	R	F	E	I	T	O	I	J
T	A	F	E	C	F	I	N	N	B	I	W	L	M	U
S	R	S	U	E	L	F	Q	M	Z	D	L	M	W	V
Q	I	P	E	C	X	G	S	I	V	D	S	T	R	P
P	R	V	Q	U	R	C	F	L	M	L	U	P	E	F
R	I	Y	F	Y	E	O	H	S	T	D	O	L	L	L
G	E	Q	N	O	Z	V	S	A	F	A	O	S	L	Z
L	I	E	Y	N	L	A	N	S	N	H	W	G	E	K
O	D	H	O	Q	F	L	V	R	W	G	L	A	S	V
F	G	F	H	L	K	T	O	L	I	F	E	I	O	V
I	W	O	R	L	D	O	D	W	T	U	I	N	U	C
N	I	Y	O	O	S	U	Q	C	G	B	Q	Y	L	L
D	H	T	P	D	T	V	E	P	J	M	U	H	Z	Y

GIVE	EXCHANGE	GOOD	WHOLE
FIND	SAVE	CROSS	GAIN
SELF	SOUL	FOLLOW	LOSE
DENY	WORLD	FORFEIT	LIFE