

The Cross to the World

- Symbol of Christianity
- Marker for a grave
- Steeple to identify a church building
- Necklace, Bracelet or earrings to proclaim one to be a Christian

The Cross to the Godly

- A cross of wood with our Savior nailed to it
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- The awful cost to Jesus for our salvation
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The Old Rugged Cross

- *An emblem of suffering and shame*
- A despised instrument of death used by Rome to shame and slowly torture.
- Used for treason, robbery, murder or sedition. No Roman could be crucified.
- No one died directly from crucifixion.
- Suffocation, infection, starvation, or thirst.
- In humiliation / shame they died slowly.
- When Jesus spoke of the Cross this is what His disciples heard.

Crucified upon the Cross

- *Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and **the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify.** And the third day He will rise again." Mt 20:17-19*
- *Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 "**You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.**" Mt 26:1-2*

The Sacrifices to Serve Jesus

- *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Mt. 10:34-39*

Jesus Introduced the Cross

- *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take **his** cross and follow after **Me** is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Matt 10:37-39*
- NOTE: **HIS** cross to follow after **ME**.
- He did not introduce His cross first but ours
- If we don't carry our own cross we are not worthy of Him.

The Cross

- *24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Matt 16:24-26*

Jesus Introduced the Cross

- Luke adds a single word:
- *Then He said to them all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Lk 9:23*
- What do you think they thought/expected?
- It was not:
- A symbol of Christianity on buildings
- A golden image (necklace, earrings, bracelet) to identify someone as a Christian
- NO! At that time it was just a means to die.
- They only knew that if they wanted to follow Jesus they must find and carry a cross to die.

The Passage in Context

- *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. Luke 9:23-26*

Must have a cross to be a disciple

- *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear **his** cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it — Lk. 14:26-28*
- His own cross Come after me
- Cannot be my disciple!

The Cross

- *17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"*
- *19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"*
- *20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,*
- *"One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and **come, take up the cross, and follow Me.**"*
Mk. 10:17-21
- A life of sacrifice and denial.

The True Meaning of our Cross

- *he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Mt 10:38*
- *If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me Lk 9:23;*
- *Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple Lk 14:27*
- *Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mk. 10:17-21*

How Paul Saw the Cross

- *But may it never be that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Gal 6:14*
- The true value of the cross = crucifixion
- I die to the World and the World dies to me.
- Compelling us to a complete denial.
- crucifixion of all desires, plans or interests that keep us from full loyalty.

The Cross

- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal 2:20*
- The true purpose and nature of our cross
- Taken up daily and used for denial of anything hindering devotion
- When Finished: No longer I that live

The Old Rugged Cross

- One of our mighty weapons 2Cor. 10:3-5
- The Spirit did not want us to see Christ's cross as only the instrument of His death, but also as the instrument of our own death!
- *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal 5:24*
- The cross is to symbol of sacrifice, shame and loss that following Christ will bring.

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