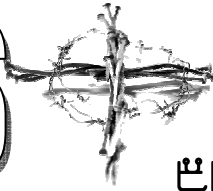


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HE CHOSE THE NAILS

lesson 06—
the weight of the cross

I. From the Beating to the Crucifixion

- A. After being brutally BEATEN, Jesus was led to a place called *Golgotha* to be crucified
 - Golgotha means “Place of the Skull”
 - the traditional road is called the *Via Delorosa* (“way of suffering”)
- 1. Jesus would have had the cross-beam (*patibulum*) placed on His shoulders to carry
 - **Patibulum*’s were about 6 feet wide and 75 lbs.
- 2. The way to Calvary was about a ½ mile up an unpaved, bumpy road
- B. Because of Jesus’ physical exhaustion, a man in the crowd was chosen to CARRY the cross
 - 1. This man’s name was SIMON (**Luke 23:26**)
 - 2. Simon was probably FORCED to carry the cross

II. How Can I Be a Simon By CHOICE?

- A. Twice, Jesus commanded His disciples to “TAKE UP their cross”

Luke 9:21-26 (see Matthew 16:24-28; Mark 8:34-38)

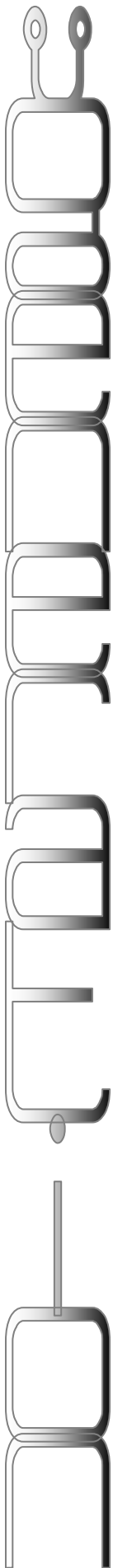
Then He said to them all, “If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will save it. What is a man benefited if he gains the whole world, yet loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes with His glory, and with the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels.

Luke 14:26-27 (also see Matthew 10:37-39)

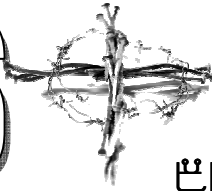
“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- B. Jesus calls us to inwardly WORSHIP Him in 5 ways because of what He did for us

- 1. DENY yourself- put His desires higher than your desires
- 2. DAILY choose to live for Him even if it means rejection
 - meant “put yourself on the firing line” or “put your head on the chopping block”
 - might be dangerous
 - might make you radically different than others
- 3. Choose to FOLLOW His commands
- 4. Don’t be ASHAMED about your faith in Christ
- 5. Be willing to GIVE UP anything for Him if He calls us to



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Small groups

Look back over the previous lessons. What is something you learned from each of these?

1. The Choice of the Thieves:
2. The Mocking of the Crown:
3. The Betrayal in the Coins:
4. The Hands that Nailed:
5. The Humility in the Beating:
6. The Weight of the Cross:

Talk About It: Of all the ways we can “take up our cross”, which one do you think is one of the most difficult? Why?

Ask Yourself: When I look at times I follow Christ (“taking up my cross”), do I do it out of love for Christ, or am I more like Simon, where I need to be forced to do it?

-examples of being forced could be: parents, wanting to look “Christian”, etc.

Discuss: When Jesus tell us to take up OUR cross and to do it daily, He is telling us that it needs to be a daily part of our life, not just a Sunday and Wednesday thing. In the past lessons we have talked about getting rid of sin and worshipping Him publically. Tonight’s question is, are you willing to daily follow Him daily by CHOICE because of your LOVE for Him.

Take it Home:

Throughout the week, look over the following verses and take time to write down what these verses mean to you.

Matthew 26:53; John 10:18; Galatians 3:13; I Peter 2:21-25