



# FOLLOWING JESUS

## MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 7 – ARE YOU READY TO DIE?

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them He said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be my disciple.

– Luke 14:25-27 NIV

<sup>34</sup>Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—<sup>36</sup>a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” <sup>37</sup>Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup>Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.

– Matthew 10:34-39 NIV

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. <sup>25</sup>“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup>What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done.”

– Matthew 16:24-26 NIV

<sup>23</sup>Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

<sup>24</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup>Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

– Luke 9:23-26 NIV

## **OBSERVATIONS**

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- There is an \_\_\_\_\_ between the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of discipleship
- Following Jesus is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ commitment
- Following Jesus requires \_\_\_\_\_ yourself and \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus will lead to \_\_\_\_\_ in the world

## **TENSION QUESTION**

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What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ following Jesus

- You can live for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it all or \_\_\_\_\_ it all and live \_\_\_\_\_

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

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1. What does it mean to take up your cross to follow Jesus?
2. Why might this kind of message turn people away from following Jesus?
3. Why is there a cost for those who do follow Jesus and those who do not follow Jesus?
4. What is the unbreakable connection between the cross of Jesus and the call of discipleship?
5. Why is following Jesus a daily commitment more than a one-time decision or an off-and-on decision?
6. What does it mean to deny yourself?
7. How does this make it possible to say yes to Jesus?
8. Why will living unashamed for Christ lead to shame in the world?
9. What are some things that you have given up for the sake of following Jesus?
10. What are some things that Jesus is calling you to give up to follow after Him faithfully?
11. How might faithfully following Jesus show the world what's worth dying for?