

Hard Sayings of Jesus

Montgomery Church, Summer 2016

Take Up Their Cross Daily

²³ *Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 NIV*
 Also Mark 8:34 and Matthew 16:24

Timeframe –

Jesus has been teaching, often in parables, and performing miracles. What are the big events in Luke 9 before verse 22?

Context–

²² *And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."* ²³ *Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. Luke 9:22-24 NIV*

What did "take up their cross" mean to the audience?

1. What did telling the disciples to "take up their cross" conjure in minds of disciples?
2. Does "take up their cross" refer to the crucifixion or to the events leading up to the crucifixion?
3. Is our common use of "my cross to bear" consistent with the bible?
4. Did the disciples understand this as some kind of burden? If not a burden, then how was he characterizing taking up a cross?
5. Was there an implication that Jesus faced the prospect of violent death and they must be prepared to face it too?
6. How did the apostles die? What was life like for Christians in the first 100 years?

7. Did the cross in this scripture symbolize atonement, grace, and forgiveness or ridicule along the way and the upcoming torturous death?
8. Did Jesus' popularity increase or decrease as he made statements like this?
9. What did "Take up their cross" mean to the audience? Did they totally understand?

How are we called to carry our cross today?

Scripture	Implication to Us?
³⁴ <i>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves <u>and take up their cross and follow me.</u> ³⁵ <u>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.</u> Mark 8:34-35 NIV</i>	Must be willing to die/suffer for Jesus and the gospel. Persecutions and trials are normal for disciples.
³⁴ <i>Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple <u>must deny themselves</u> and take up their cross and follow me. Mark 8:34 NIV</i>	Put the interests of the kingdom first and foremost in one's life.
⁷ <i>...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10</i>	Rely on his strength, not ours Be thankful for hardships

Crucifixion is one of the most frequent images of Jesus used by the apostle Paul:

⁶ <i>For we know that our <u>old self was crucified</u> with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Romans 6:6-7 NIV</i>	Crucify our bondage to sin
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²⁰ <i>I have been <u>crucified with Christ</u> and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 NIV</i>	Crucify our will
²⁴ <i>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have <u>crucified the flesh</u> with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24 NIV</i>	Crucify our nature
¹⁴ <i>May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the <u>world has been crucified to me</u>, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14 NIV</i>	Crucify the world

“It's impossible for a human heart, without crosses and tribulations, to think upon God.” Martin Luther (1483-1546).

Class Schedule

May 15	Introduction		Bob
May 22	Jesus Speaking in Parables	Mark 4:11-12	Bob
May 29	Love your Enemies	Matt 5:43-45	Bob
June 5	Creation of Satan	Colossians 1:16, John 1:3, Psalm 24:1	Bob
June 12	Blessed are the Poor in Spirit	Matt 5:3	Bob
June 19	Unforgivable Sin	Matt 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, Luke 12:10	Anita
June 26	Rebellion and Sin, Part 1	Luke 10:18	Bob
July 3	Rebellion and Sin, Part 12	Luke 10:18	Bob
July 10	Says to This Mountain, Part 1	Mark 11:23, Luke 17:6, Matt 17:20	Bob
July 17	Says to This Mountain, Part 2	Mark 11:23, Luke 17:6, Matt 17:20	Bob
July 24	Worshipping in Spirit & Truth	John 4:23-24	Bob
July 31	Whoever has no Sword	Luke 22:36, Matt 10:34	Bob
Aug 7	Sent to Lost Sheep of Israel	Matthew 15:24	Bob
Aug 14	Take Up Their Cross	Mark 8:34	Anita
Aug 21	First Will Be Last	Mark 10:29-31, Matt 19:30	Bob
Aug 28	Not Worry About Tomorrow	Matt 6:31-34	Bob
Sept 4	Many Called, Few Chosen	Matt 22:14	Bob