

*The Jesus Way #2:*  
**The Cost of Following  
Jesus**

Luke 9:23-27  
February 5, 2006

## The Big Question

- Who am I?
- Messiah must die!

## Conditions for Following Jesus

1. Deny yourself
  - What does it mean?
  - Why is it necessary?

“Discipleship is fundamentally giving up the right to live your own life.” (Bill Hull)

## The Jesus Way vs. “Me Church”

### The Jesus Way

- Submission
- Humility
- Self-denial
- Sacrifice
- Commitment

### “Me Church”

- Being in control
- Recognition
- Self-fulfillment
- Enjoyment
- Keeping my options open

## The Jesus Way vs. “Me Church”

### The Jesus Way

- Giving
- Serving others
- Obedience
- All about **God**

### “Me Church”

- Receiving
- Having my needs
- Freedom to do what I want
- All about **Me**

## Conditions for Following Jesus

1. Deny yourself
2. **Take up your cross**
  - What is a cross?

## What is a Cross?

“In the Roman world, the cross was a symbol of shame, guilt, suffering, and rejection. There could be no more despicable way to die. . . .people would no more think of wearing crosses on their person than we would think of wearing gold or silver electric chairs.” [Wiersbe]

## Conditions for Following Jesus

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up your cross
  - What is a cross?
  - What does it mean to take up your cross?

## Conditions for Following Jesus

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up your cross
- 3. Follow Jesus**
  - Jesus is the one we follow

## Jesus is the One we Follow

“Discipleship therefore requires a basic shift of orientation as we align ourselves with God’s will through a humble renunciation of our own agenda. To deny ourselves in the context of cross-bearing means that the world may “kill” us for walking outside its paths, but we are ready to do so, because God has called us to walk a different way.” [Darrell Bock]

## Conditions for Following Jesus

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up your cross
- 3. Follow Jesus**
  - Jesus is the one we follow
  - We must do the things Jesus does
  - We can’t follow Jesus on our own terms

## We can’t Follow Jesus on our Own Terms

“<sup>61</sup>Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” <sup>62</sup>But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”” (Lk. 9:61-62)

### We can't Follow Jesus on our Own Terms

“The trouble with this third would-be disciple is that at the very moment he expresses his willingness to follow, he ceases to want to follow at all. By making his offer on his own terms, he alters the whole position, for discipleship can tolerate no conditions which might come between Jesus and our obedience to him.”  
[Dietrich Bonhoeffer]

### Barriers to Following Jesus

1. A desire to keep safe

### Barriers to Following Jesus

“In the ancient world, choosing for Jesus meant certain opposition from people in the world. That opposition might express itself in the type of scorn Jesus saw, the type of ridicule the early church faced, beatings such as Paul experienced, or even death such as Stephen faced. . . .If someone desired popularity and acceptance, he or she did not accept Christ.”

### Barriers to Following Jesus

“But the cost of popular acclaim was great, since the choice meant forfeiting the opportunity of salvation. Only those willing to line up with God and face popular rejection would respond to the gospel and enter into life. Thus, from the beginning, the choice of Jesus had built into it a sense of going a different way.” [Darrell Bock]

### Barriers to Following Jesus

1. A desire to keep safe
2. **A desire for success in the world**

### Barriers to Following Jesus

“Materialism and the pursuit of power, independence, and security are probably the biggest obstacles to spiritual advancement. Everything in our culture from commercials to our education pushes us in the direction of advancing our standing of living for more comfort. To pick up a cross means walking against the grain of cultural values, so that our own expectations and needs take a back seat to God's call.” [Darrell Bock]

## Barriers to Following Jesus

1. A desire to keep safe
2. A desire for success in the world
3. **Unwillingness to face rejection**

## For further Reading...

- *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- *Choose the Life* by Bill Hull