

Live as a Disciple

Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer. For I am not content to simply call myself a Christian; I am a disciple. As a disciple of Jesus I have chosen to identify completely with His message. His message is to "love one another" in the same way that He loves me; these are my marching orders and evidence to the world that I am truly a follower of Jesus. This is not a once-for-all deal, rather a willingness to take up my cross "daily" and to love others as Jesus loves me in every situation.

A disciple is a student, an apprentice, a follower willing to learn and grow by obeying and imitating Jesus' life and obeying His commands. Discipleship is active, requiring effort and sacrifice. As Jesus' disciple I will not use my life on earth to serve my own pleasure rather I will, by the best of my ability and the grace of God, invest it in serving God and people. This is not a means to an end; I am not trying to "fix" people. Instead, following Jesus is a way of life and His way has the power to change me, my heart, my relationships and my community. I recognize God's plan for my life is ultimately better than my own; by embracing and emulating Jesus' example to sacrificially take up my cross I will discover the most fulfilling use of my life.

Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer. Regardless of the risk I will not be afraid for I know my life is in His hands. As Jesus' follower I choose to deny selfish ambition and desires to use time and resources my way. Instead I will take the same road of self-denial and self-sacrifice Jesus took; He is my example and with me always to encourage me, guide me and be my friend.

Recognizing Jesus as Lord of my life and putting my faith in Him for salvation is only the beginning of discipleship. Today, through love for God and others, I will take up my cross and follow Him; I will not turn back. My position in Him is permanent and I will do all I can to grow deeper in my relationship with Him each day and make Him part of every moment of my life. I want His will more than my own, knowing that I will experience the rich and satisfying life He came to give me. Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer.

Study: Live as a Disciple

Day 1: Take Up Your Cross - *Luke 9:23-25* (Page 790); *Matthew 10:38* (Page 741);
1 Kings 19:19-21 (Page 277)

Day 2: Count the Cost - *Luke 14:25-33* (Page 797); *Proverbs 20:25* (Page 495)

Day 3: Remain in Christ - *John 15:1-17* (Page 824)

Day 4: Live as Jesus Did - *1 John 2:3-6* (Page 941)

Day 5: Lose Your Life to Gain it - *Mark 8:34-38* (Page 769)

Day 6: Deny Yourself - *Luke 14:26-27* (Page 797); *Matthew 16:24* (Page 748)

Day 7: Live This Life - *Romans 8:13* (Page 862); *Colossians 3:5* (Page 903); *2 Timothy 3:12*
(Page 911). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out.
Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to
learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: Luke 9:23 *"Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.'"*
Luke 9:23

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?