Cross Bearing - Disdainful

 Luke 9:23

Introduction:

1. Cross bearing, which includes denying self, is the only plan of discipleship that Jesus has. Luke 9:23,24
	1. It applies to “anyone.”
	2. The lose-save principle applies to “whomsoever.”
2. The only One Who can show us how to bear a cross is Jesus.
	1. This was God’s illustration of love. 1 John 3:16
	2. Laying down one’s life for another, bearing a cross, does not always mean dying for another; sometimes it means living sacrificially for them. 1 John 3:17, 18
3. Cross bearing begins with denying.
	1. Definition of *deny*:
		1. “to declare untrue.”
		2. “to restrain (oneself) from gratification of wishes or desires: restrain (oneself) from self-indulgence.”
	2. We are to deny:
		1. Not Jesus, as Peter did. Matthew 26:34,70-74
		2. Self.
4. THINGS ABOUT OURSELVES WE NEED TO DENY.
	1. Self-righteousness.
		1. “You are too good, nice, helpful to need to bear a cross.”
		2. “I deny that!” Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 3:4-8
	2. Unrighteousness.
		1. “You are too unrighteous, sinful to bear a cross for Jesus.”
		2. “I deny that!” 1 Timothy 1:13-15; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
	3. Riches.
		1. “You have enough money not to bear a cross.”
		2. “I deny that!” Matthew 19:21, 22; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
	4. Poverty.
		1. “You are so poor that you can’t afford to bear a cross.”
		2. “I deny that!” Matthew 8:20; Matthew 19:27-30
	5. Comfort.
		1. “The purpose of life is to feel good, be happy, stay comfortable; a cross might interrupt that; God doesn’t want you to be unhappy, uncomfortable.”
		2. “I deny that!” Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22
	6. Discomfort.
		1. “You are too sick, hurt, weak, old to bear a cross.”
		2. “I deny that!” 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
	7. Greatness.
		1. “You are too smart, powerful, famous to stoop to the indignity of bearing a cross.”
		2. “I deny that!” 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
	8. Insignificance.
		1. “You are too dumb, weak, unimportant to accomplish anything bearing a cross for Jesus.”
		2. “I deny that!” 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
	9. Self.
		1. “Because of who you are, where you are, your relatives, friends, circumstances, you don’t have to bear a cross.”
		2. Definition: *self*:
			1. 1a “the entire person of an individual.”
			2. 4. “personal interest or advantage.”
		3. “I deny that!” Romans 15:1-3
5. WHAT IS THE KEY TO KNOWING WHEN AND HOW TO DENY SELF?
	1. Be aware, think about, and ask for what you want and think you need.
		1. Jesus asked three times for the cup to pass from Him. Matthew 26:38-44
		2. Paul asked for his thorn in the flesh to be removed three times. 2 Corinthians 12:8
	2. Be more committed to doing the will of the Father than to getting what you want.
		1. Jesus. Matthew 26:39
		2. Paul. 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10
		3. Principle. James 4:13-15; 1 John 5:14, 15.
	3. Jesus was committed to doing the will of His Father.
		1. He knew that calling angels, escaping the cross, would be more pleasant. Matthew 26:53
		2. But crucifixion, fulfilling the scriptures would be right. Matthew 26:54

Conclusion:

1. How do I react when I am faced with the opportunity and obligation to deny myself?
	1. Carve ears?
	2. Cut out?
	3. Call angels?
	4. Crucifixion?
2. The only way I’ll ever save my life is to lose it. Luke 9:24
3. I must either deny myself or deny Jesus. Matthew 10:32, 33