Cross Bearing−Aimful

Hebrews 11:24-27

Introduction:

1. “If anyone chooses to be my disciple, he must say ‘No’ to self, put the cross on his shoulders daily, and continue to follow me.” (Charles B. Williams)
2. The words “will” (KJV), “desires” (NKJV), “would” (NIV), “chooses” (Will.) indicates a choice.
   1. There are other choices in choosing to follow Jesus.
      1. Saying “No” to self.
      2. Put the cross on my shoulders daily.
      3. Continuing to follow Jesus.
   2. Let’s watch Jesus, Who has led the way, and watch Him make and carry out His choice to bear His cross.
3. ACTIVE, CLEAR, DECISIVE, RESPONSIBLE CHOICE IS INDIVIDUAL; IT IS NOT FORCED. John 10:17, 18
4. WISE CHOICE INVOLVES LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES.
   1. Jesus taught this principle. Luke 14:25-33
   2. Jesus practiced what He taught.
      1. He was distressed as He thought about His baptism of suffering. Luke 12:49-50
      2. His soul was troubled as He thought about the hour of crucifixion, but He also wanted the Father’s name glorified. John 12:23-28
      3. In Gethsemane, Jesus’ soul was “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (NIV).
      4. He prayed for the cup to be taken from Him, and considered the alternatives, but more than anything He wanted the will of the Father to be done. Matthew 26:37-39, 42, 44, 53, 54
   3. Moses. Hebrews 11:24-27
5. HARD CHOICES OFTEN BRING OPPOSITION, EVEN FROM “GOOD” PEOPLE.
   1. Jesus. Matthew 16:13-26
   2. Paul. Acts 21:10-14
6. CARRYING OUT CROSS BEARING CHOICES IS OFTEN VERY, VERY LONELY.
   1. Jesus had warned and prepared His disciples concerning the cross and accompanying events. Matthew 16:21; Matthew 26:19-25, 30-32
   2. They all promised their loyalty. Matthew 26:33-35
   3. But they left Him
      1. Forsook Him and fled. Matthew 26:56
      2. Peter denied Him. Matthew 26:69-75
   4. Paul experienced the same thing at his trial. 2 Timothy 4:16
      1. Good friends are good and often helpful.
      2. However, there will probably be some decisions in life that will have to be made alone.
         1. Jesus picked good men to be His disciples.
         2. Paul had good friends who were faithful Christians. 2 Timothy 4:10-12
         3. But when it came time for both Paul and Jesus to face the ultimate test, their friends were either absent or tardy. 2 Timothy 4:16; Matthew 26:56; John 18:15)

Conclusion:

1. When I face the challenge and choice of carrying a cross all the way to Calvary, how do I react?
   1. Carve ears?
      1. There is a time for anger and expressing it. Mark 3:5
      2. But at crucifixion, choice rules, anger subsides.
   2. Cutting out?
      1. There is a time to rest, get away. Mark 6:30-32, 45, 46
      2. But at crucifixion, I volunteer to participate.
   3. Call angels?
      1. There was a time when angels came to help Jesus, minister on His behalf.
         1. Birth. Luke 2:8-15
         2. Temptation. Matthew 4:11
         3. Gethsemane. Luke 22:43
      2. But at crucifixion, that would not fulfill scriptures. Matthew 26:53, 54
   4. Crucifixion. Galatians 2:20
2. We are faced with choices.
3. The cross is to be carried daily.
4. Do you need to change your choice?