Cross Bearing−Sustainful

Introduction:

1. An important word in our text is ***daily***. Luke 9:23
2. How did Jesus get from Bethlehem all the way to heaven when He had to pass through Gethsemane and Calvary?
3. JESUS KNEW WHY HE WAS ON EARTH.
   1. He had a purpose that unified His life. John 6:38; Luke 19:10
   2. Paul had a goal. Philippians 3:13, 14
   3. We are to remember our purpose. Matthew 5:16; Galatians 6:9, 10
4. JESUS WOULD ASK FOR AND ACCEPT HELP FROM OTHERS.
   1. He enlisted the apostles and others for ministry and evangelism. Matthew 9:36-10:1; Luke 10:1
   2. He asked His Father to remove the cup from Him. Matthew 26:39
      1. He did not receive what He requested.
      2. He did receive help to do what He ultimately wanted: to do the will of the Father.
         1. An angel ministered to Him in the garden. Luke 22:43
         2. Simon helped Him bear His cross. Matthew 27:32
   3. He has taught us to do the same.
      1. Ask for what we want and need. Matthew 7:7, 8
      2. We will receive help from the Lord. Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Peter 5:6, 7
      3. We will receive help from others. Galatians 6:2
5. JESUS FOUND STRENGTH IN REGULAR WORSHIP.
   1. He had a habit of being in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Luke 4:16
   2. There is help and encouragement from being around people who care and have the same goals and concerns as I do. Hebrews 10:24, 25
   3. There is value in having a time when we can get back to the basic facts of the gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
      1. The Lord’s Supper is a time to remember that. 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
      2. It is a time to examine myself. 1 Corinthians 11:28
      3. It is a time to look forward to the Lord’s return. 1 Corinthians 11:26
6. JESUS KNEW HOW TO FINISH INDIVIDUAL TASKS.
   1. Many times people get discouraged because they think life is one big job that is never finished.
      1. After eating, Jesus told the disciples to pick up the leftovers. John 6:12
      2. After a completed assignment, He would help His disciples evaluate what was really important. Luke 10:17, 20
      3. After a lesson, He would explain, if necessary. Matthew 13:18-23, 36-43
      4. After an object lesson, He checked to see if they had received the message. John 13:12-17
   2. Paul and Barnabas completed the first missionary journey, reported what God had done with them, and stayed a long time with the sending congregation before they started the second missionary journey. Acts 14:26-28
7. JESUS COMMANDED HIS DISCIPLES TO REST AND DID THAT HIMSELF.
   1. Some people find it difficult to bear a cross because they carry a heavy cross, without any help, far too long.
   2. Jesus commanded the apostles to get away from the multitudes. Mark 6:30-32, 45
   3. He then got away from the apostles. Mark 6:46
   4. We need rest even during important times when schedules are tight and tasks are important. Exodus 34:21

Conclusion:

1. Jesus did what He came to do. John 17:4; John 19:30
2. He can teach us how to be consistent in His service.
3. How do I react to daily cross bearing, and it’s getting old?
   1. Carve ears?
   2. Cut out?
   3. Call angels?
   4. Crucifixion?
4. For years, Renoir, the great French painter, suffered dreadfully from arthritis. His hands were twisted and deformed. The joints of his fingers were swollen and enormous. At last he reached a point where he could only hold the brush clumsily with thumb and forefinger, high up in the cleft between them, because there was no power in the finger. Still he worked on . His condition became so bad that he had to be carried to his easel. Attendants had to move the canvas for him, because he could only paint directly in front of his hand. But he never complained. He remained cheerful and serene. And he kept on working.

One day, Matisse came to call and found Renoir painting as usual. At this point he winced with pain, and the brush fell from his hand. Torn with pity, Matisse said, “Why torture yourself like this? You have done so much. You may well be satisfied!”

Renoir looked at him, smiled, and said, “The pain passes, but the beauty remains.”