The Valor of My Cross

Kenny Moorer · Matthew 16:24–25

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus taught principally by principle.
- When the principle is stated, we have to know how to apply that principle. What is it that God wants us to do?
- We know what it says, but what does it mean?

1 What Does It Mean to Take Up Our Cross?

Matthew 16:24–25; Luke 14:27; Matthew 10:38

- If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- Whoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
- So my question is, what in the world does it mean to take up our cross?

2 What Did It Mean to Them?

- Anytime we try to understand what the New Testament is telling us, the first question we need to always ask is, what did it mean to them?
- When they heard the word cross, when they heard the word crucifixion, they understood what it meant because they saw it.
- Many times bodies still hanging on those crosses. Their visual was not our visual.
- In their minds, they had to consider daily the fact that they might die for their faith.

3 All the Disciples Forsook Him and Fled

Matthew 26:31–35; Matthew 26:56

- All of you will be made to stumble because of me this night, for it is written, I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.
- Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you.
- They all said, We won't deny you, and they all did, and they all forsook him, and they all fled.
- I think they understood what Jesus was saying. But I really think in their human frailty, folks, I think they were unwilling to do it.

4 The Same Men After an Event

Acts 5:33–42

- If this plan or if this work is a man, it will come to nothing. But if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it.
- They departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- They have seen a risen Savior who said, I'm going to rise on the third day.

- The text tells us they went to the temple every day and they preached.
- I'll tell you what they were unconcerned about. They were unconcerned about dying.

5 Believing in Someone We Have Never Seen

1 John 1:1–4

- You never saw one miracle that he did. You never heard one sermon that he preached.
- Well, we believe because of evidence. It's not a blind faith.
- That which we have seen and heard, we declare to you.

6 Would You Be Willing to Die for Jesus?

- But I think this is what Jesus means. You be willing to die for me.
- If today is the day I have to die for him, then today is the day I will die for him.
- You've asked us if we're willing to die for Jesus. Are you willing to die for Jesus?
- I do believe that what he asked me to do is not only to die for him, but to live for him.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you willing to live for him? And are you willing to die for him?**

MY NOTES