

# What Does God Ask of Me?

## Expectation #4

### Take up your cross and follow me

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. – Matthew 16:24*

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." – Mark 1:17*

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12*

*But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." – Matthew 8:22*

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." – Matthew 19:21*

**Jesus in this passage tells his listeners to:**  
**“Estimate the Cost.”**

**What does it take to follow Christ?**

**OBEDIENCE**

**What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Christ?**

We must **deny** ourselves.

**disown**

**abstain**

To deny literally means to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

It's a conscious decision to turn to Christ and say, "I want your will to be done in my life."

Take up **YOUR** cross.

This statement literally means **dying** to yourself.

In that sense every disciple of Jesus bears the **same** cross.

The cross symbolizes **death** and **sacrifice**.

The cross represents **pain** and **shame**.

The appeal Jesus gives is not to gloom and doom but **discipleship**.

*For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? – Matthew 16:25-26*

By losing our life we actually gain much more **eternal** life.

**What do we gain?**

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." – John 13:34-35*

We gain a **new** **love**.

*"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. – Luke 6:27-28*

We **endure** persecution.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20*

We continue the **work** of Christ on earth.

*Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. – Romans 8:17*

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We will \_\_\_\_\_ in His **GLORY** \_\_\_\_\_!

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John*

**16:33**