

Dimensions of the *Cross*



PAIN



SHAME



Luke 9:23-25

If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me,
you are not worthy of being mine. (Matthew 10:38)

If you do not carry your own cross and follow me,
you cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27)

Every disciple must follow Jesus' example.

Jesus willing laid aside his own self-interest and laid down his life at the cross for the sake of others.

He expects his followers;
to have this same mindset.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8 NLT)

The example Jesus gives his followers is one of laying aside our self-interest, even going so far as to lay down our lives, for the sake of others, even our enemies.

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. (Romans 5:8-10 NLT)

⁴³ “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.
(Matthew 5:43-48 NLT)

Crusaders



“If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also.” (Matthew 5:39 NLT)

“Put away your sword. Those who use the sword will die by the sword.” (Matthew 26:52 NLT)

Abbot Iscu



We must daily choose the Way of the
Cross over the Way of the Sword.

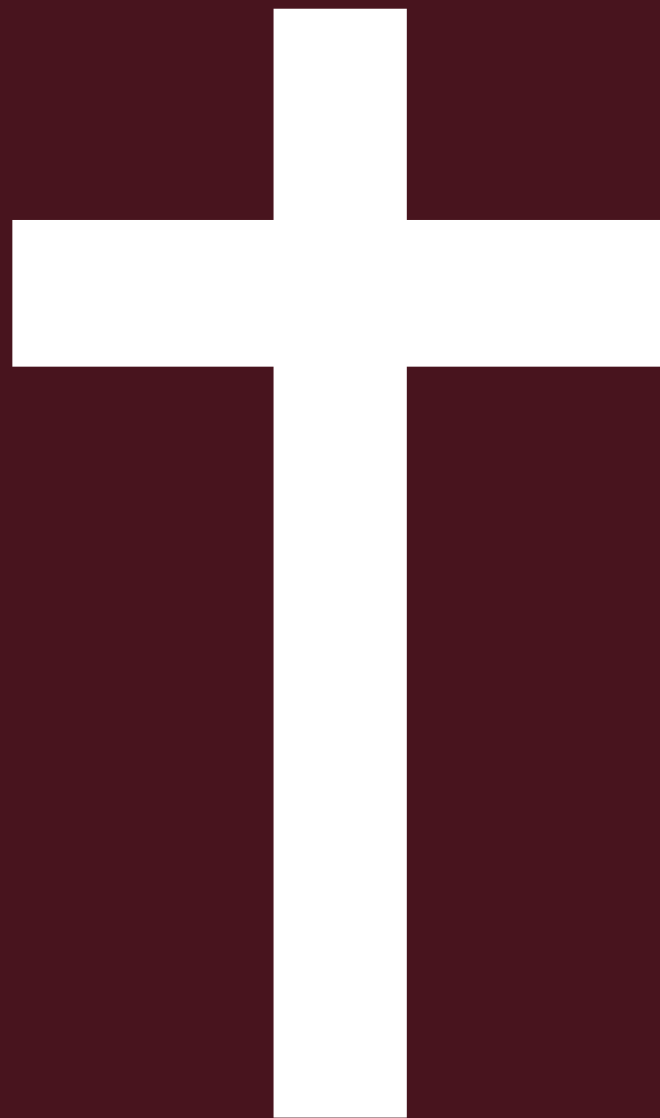
21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.” (Matthew 5:21-22 NLT)

We cannot carry our cross in our
hands and hatred in our hearts
at the same time.

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had... (Philippians 2:1-5 NLT)





²³ “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁵ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? (Luke 9:23-25 NLT)