



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 2 — DAY 1

Luke 9:57–58

Devotional

A man walks up to Jesus and says, “I will follow You wherever You go.” That sounds spiritual. It sounds committed. If this happened in church today, we’d sign him up to serve on the greeting team before he even finished the sentence.

But Jesus responds:

“Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

Translation:

“Are you sure about that? Because I’m not offering comfort. I’m offering a cross.”

Jesus never manipulates us into following Him. He never hides the fine print. He doesn’t say, “Follow Me and all your problems will go away.” He says, “Follow Me, and everything about your life will be redefined.”

Most people don’t walk away from Jesus because they don’t believe in Him.

They walk away because they weren’t prepared for the cost.

Theological Insight

Following Jesus is a radical realignment of priorities. It is a call to embrace discomfort for the sake of the kingdom.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you expect Jesus to make life easier rather than deeper?
2. How have you defined “following Jesus” in your mind?
3. Does your definition match Jesus’ definition?

Application Step

Give up one comfort today that keeps you spiritually sleepy.

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the real cost and the real joy of following You. Amen.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 2 — DAY 2

Luke 9:59–60

Devotional

Jesus says to another man, “Follow Me.”

Great invitation, right? But the man replies, “Lord, first let me go bury my father.”

Sounds reasonable.

But scholars explain that this phrase likely meant, “Let me wait until my father dies someday... then I’ll follow You.”

In other words: “Jesus, not now.”

“Not now” is the enemy of spiritual growth. It’s subtle. Respectable. Sounds responsible.

But “not now” is still “no,” just with better manners.

Jesus replies, “Let the dead bury their own dead.”

He’s not attacking funerals. He’s challenging procrastination disguised as responsibility.

Every believer has a “not now” delay somewhere.

Theological Insight

Jesus teaches that the claim of the Kingdom supersedes all other allegiances—even culturally sacred obligations.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you told Jesus “not now”?
2. What spiritual step have you delayed?
3. What would obedience look like today?

Application Step

Choose one area of delayed obedience and take the step today.

Prayer

Jesus, interrupt my excuses. Make me a person of immediate obedience. Amen.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 2 — DAY 3

Luke 9:61–62

Devotional

Another man says, “I’ll follow You, Lord, but first let me go say goodbye to my family.”

Again, seems reasonable.

But Jesus says:

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

If you plow while looking backward, you get crooked lines. Same is true spiritually.

Looking back leads to regret.

Looking back leads to comparison.

Looking back leads to spiritual drift.

Jesus says we must face forward.

Toward Him.

Some of us don’t follow Jesus boldly because we’re still glancing over our shoulder at what we left behind:

- A sin we miss
- A lifestyle that felt easier
- A relationship that wasn’t healthy
- A version of ourselves that didn’t require sacrifice

Forward faith requires forward focus.

Theological Insight

Jesus frames discipleship as irreversible commitment—mirroring Elijah’s call of Elisha, who burned his plow and oxen to follow.

Reflection Questions

1. What are you tempted to “look back” at?
2. What part of your past still pulls on you?
3. Where is Jesus calling you to face forward?

Application Step

Name one thing you need to stop revisiting mentally or emotionally.

Prayer

Lord, free me from the things behind me so I can follow what You have ahead. Amen.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 2 — DAY 4

Luke 14:25–27

Devotional

Large crowds followed Jesus. Thousands. If Jesus were pastoring today, churches would be asking Him to headline conferences.

But Jesus isn't impressed by crowds. He's impressed by commitment.

He says, "If you do not carry your cross and follow Me, you cannot be My disciple."

He's not recruiting fans.

He's building followers.

The cross Jesus invites us to carry is not the "inconveniences" we complain about—traffic, slow Wi-Fi, or the church running out of donuts. The cross is the symbol of dying to self.

When you carry your cross, you stop asking, "What do I want?"

Start asking, "What does Jesus want?"

Theological Insight

The call to "hate" one's family (v. 26) is hyperbolic language—Jesus demands ultimate allegiance, but not literal hostility. It's covenant prioritization.

Reflection Questions

1. What competes most for your loyalty to Jesus?
2. Where does discipleship feel "heavy"?
3. What part of self is Jesus asking you to lay down?

Application Step

Do something today that intentionally puts Jesus' will above your own.

Prayer

Jesus, lead me in deeper and costlier obedience. Make me brave. Amen.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 2 — DAY 5

Matthew 16:24–26

Devotional

Jesus says, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Notice the order:

1. **Deny yourself** (say “no” to the old you)
2. **Take up your cross** (kill the sin that keeps winning)
3. **Follow Me** (live in resurrection power)

Most people reverse it:

“Follow Jesus... unless it interferes with yourself.”

But Jesus knows that dying to the false self is the only path to discovering the true self.

If following Jesus feels costly, good.

It means you’re doing it right.

Theological Insight

Self-denial is not self-hatred. It is freedom from the enslaving rule of the flesh (Galatians 5).

Reflection Questions

1. Where does following Jesus feel costly right now?
2. What “old self” habits fight hardest for control?
3. How has obedience brought unexpected joy?

Application Step

Make a physical list titled: “Things I’m dying to so I can live in Christ.” Write 3.

Prayer

Lord, help me follow You without conditions. Strengthen my faith. Amen.