

May 10th, 2026

Counting the Cost

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said... (Mark 8:34) NIV

- Jesus challenges both His disciples and the crowd with the _____ for following Him.
- Jesus only addresses the _____ in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus is _____.
- Denying oneself is not giving up _____ or _____ - _____. It's placing the _____ before _____ - _____.
- Taking up our cross is a daily walk to our _____.
- We can't be a follower of Jesus until we've _____.
- Jesus is not talking about a _____ - _____ salvation.
- Following Jesus is not about _____ for God. It's about _____ for yourself.
- Jesus came to give us life _____.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep,
to gain that which he cannot lose."
—Jim Elliot

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

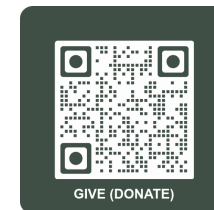
What's something you thought would be easy or enjoyable... until you realized what it would actually cost you?

Jesus said that following Him means denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily. What do you think people most commonly misunderstand about those words today?

In what ways does our culture encourage us to prioritize self-will, comfort, or personal fulfillment over surrender to God?

The message said, "Following Jesus is not about doing more for God. It's about living less for yourself." What's the difference between those two approaches to faith? Why does that distinction matter?

Is there an area of your life right now where you sense Jesus inviting you to trust Him more deeply or surrender something more fully? What makes that difficult?



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- Jesus challenges both His disciples and the crowd with the conditions for following Him.
- Jesus only addresses the disciples in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus is drawing a line in the sand.
- Denying oneself is not giving up material things or self-hatred. It's placing the divine will before self-will.
- Taking up our cross is a daily walk to our execution.
- We can't be a follower of Jesus until we've died to self.
- Jesus is not talking about a works-based salvation.
- Following Jesus is not about doing more for God. It's about living less for yourself.
- Jesus came to give us life beyond extraordinary.

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