

The Cost and Conditions of Following Jesus.

Slide 3. Introduction

Biblical Lens

Give Up Your Own Way

Take Up Your Cross Daily

Don't Try to Hang on to Your Life or You will Lose it

Ask God to Give you a Generous Heart

Only God Can Save

God Continues to Bless Faithful Giving

Slide 4. Text:

[Mar 8:34-37 KJV] 34 And when he had called the people [unto him] with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8 34 NLT Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. 36 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? 37 Is anything worth more than your soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.":

What's it like really following Jesus? The World Will Never Know. True followers must follow Christ through a Biblical lens not a human prospective.

Slide 5. [Jhn 1:10-13 KJV] 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

You cannot accept this charge unless you are looking through a Biblical lens.

Slide 6. [Rom 12:1-2 KJV] 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **Live a life acceptable to God Rather than Acceptable to You**

Slide 7. The Biblical Lens comes from Christ not Religion

[Col 2:8 KJV] 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Slide 8. Grace and Truth Comes through the Biblical lens.

[Jhn 1:14, 17 KJV] 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ... 17 For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Give up going your own way, Follow Jesus

Fearing God above all other things, Affects the direction of your path.

Slide 9. [Pro 3:5-6 KJV] 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Fear God and Obey His Commands, This is Everyone's Duty

Slide 10. [Ecc 12:13 KJV] 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.

[1Pe 2:17 KJV] 17 Honour all [men]. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Slide 11. Car with a 10 Year Warranty (2015 Jaguar, \$16,000 + \$10,000) (2 Volunteers)

Slide 12. [Lev 25:16-18, 23 KJV] 16 According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for [according] to the number [of the years] of the fruits doth he sell unto thee. 17 Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I [am] the LORD your God. 18 Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety. ... 23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land [is] mine; for ye [are] strangers and sojourners with me.

Slide 13. He Owns it All Because He Made it All

[Exo 19:5 KJV] 5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine:

[Act 17:24 NKJV] 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Slide 14. Are You Sure You are going the Right Way? (Christian and Sinner)

[Pro 26:10 KJV] 10 The great [God] that formed all [things] both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

[Mat 5:44-45 KJV] 44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

[Act 24:15 KJV] 15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. Paul before Felix.

Slide 15. Take up your cross Daily and follow Christ

[Luk 9:23 KJV] 23 And he said to [them] all, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Slide 16. Self-denial is not severe self-discipline that believes that any pleasure in life is sinful.

(Volunteer) Self-Denial means saying no to one's inclination to self-preservation, comfort, self-justification, and protection of reputation and status. **(Three Hebrew Children)** The readiness to share abuse, and even the same Publicly Disgraceful death, with Jesus is also part of discipleship; in this way, the disciple bears his or her cross. This kind of sacrifice, however, comes from a daily commitment to walk with Jesus; a one-time decision for martyrdom can come out of only daily discipleship.

Self-Denial Example from Scripture

Slide 17-19. [Dan 3:15-17 NKJV] 15 "Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, [and] psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, [good]! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who [is] the god who will deliver you from my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 "If that [is the case], our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver [us] from your hand, O king.

Are you Really Ready to Die for Jesus?

Slide 20. The readiness to share abuse, and even the same publicly disgraceful death, with Jesus is also part of discipleship; in this way, the disciple bears his or her cross. This kind of sacrifice, however, comes from a daily commitment to walk with Jesus; a one-time decision for martyrdom can come out of only daily discipleship.

Those who try to hang on to their life will lose it

Slide 21-22. [Jer 26:11-15, 19 KJV] 11 Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man [is] worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears. 12 Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. 13 Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you. **14 As for me, behold, I [am] in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you.** 15 But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears. ... 19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.

Slide 23-25. [Jer 26:20-23 KJV] 20 And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah: 21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt; 22 And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, [namely], Elnathan the son of Achbor, and [certain] men with him into Egypt. 23 And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

Slide 26. What Jeremiah Knew but Urijah did not know. Nobody but God can kill you.

[Mat 10:28 KJV] 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

[Ecc 7:17 KJV] 17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Ask God to Give you a Generous Heart

Slide 27-28. [Mar 10:17-22 KJV] 17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. 20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Slide 29-30. Many Walk Away from the Lord

Everything belongs to God. How can it be hard to give things up when it is not mine to give up?

If Rich People cannot be Saved, Who can? Only God can Save.

Slide 31. [Mar 10:26-27 KJV] 26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Mark 10: 26 The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked.

27 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."

Slide 32. God Continues to Bless Faithful Giving

[Mar 10:28-31 KJV] 28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

With Blessings Come Persecutions

Slide 33. 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. 31 But many [that are] first shall be last; and the last first.