



LET HIM DENY HIMSELF

MARK 8:34

The audience;

MARK 3:8-10, 13

⁸ ...When the *great crowd* heard all that he was doing, *they came to him*. ⁹ And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, ¹⁰ for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him...¹³ And he went up on the mountain and *called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him*.

MATTHEW 10:1

¹ And *he called to him* his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits...

Jesus is addressing “called-out ones,” therefore, His words are the *description* of a follower, not *instructions on becoming* a follower

The command to “come”;

JOHN 5:40

⁴⁰ ...you refuse *to come* to me that you may have life.

The non-negotiable nature of Jesus’ statement;

Self-denial in the New Testament;

MATTHEW 26:72

⁷² And again he *denied* it with an oath: “I do not know the man.”

What self-denial is not;

Two images;

“Taking up their cross”;

ROMANS 6:4-6

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*

GALATIANS 2:20

²⁰ *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Unlike some contemporary peddlers of the gospel, Jesus does not offer his disciples varieties of self-fulfillment, intoxicating spiritual experiences, or intellectual stimulation. He presents them with a cross. He does not invite them try the cross on for size to see if they like it. He does not ask for volunteers to carry one for extra credit. This particular demand separates the disciples from the admirers. Disciples must do more than survey the wondrous cross, glory in the cross of Christ, and love the old rugged cross, as beloved hymns have it. They must become like Jesus in obedience and live the cross.

—David Garland

ROMANS 12:1

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, *to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19–20

¹⁹ ...You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price...

“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, 44

Not just an attachment to the Person of Jesus, but also to His words;

JOHN 14:15

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Jesus' description is a description of the impossible;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a *new creation*. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

JOHN 15:5

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for *apart from me you can do nothing.*

MATTHEW 19:26

²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3–4

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility *count others more significant than yourselves.* ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.