

St. Matthew AME Church
Men's Bible Study
March 13, 2021

Godly Men 2021-Take up Your Cross

Facilitator: Evangelist Drefus Tarpkin

I. Opening Prayer:

II. Introduction/Comments

III. Scripture: **Matthew 6: 24-28**

IV. Objectives

- To teach/engage in discussion on the theme: ***“Take up Your Cross”***
- To teach/review biblical scripture (key texts) that will encourage, and inspire men, that the Word of God, provides instructions that will strengthen our character, our journey with Christ.
- To engage in discussion, how we can change, what we need to change, or increase, individually and collectively, to strengthen our families, communities, church, for God’s glory, and contribute to the building of His Kingdom.

I. Conclusion

II. Summary: Feedback, Assessment, Looking Ahead

III. Closing Prayer:

Theme/Key Texts

➤ Take up Your/Their Cross. (**Matthew 6: 24-28**)

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

25 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

28 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Question: What did Jesus mean when He said, ‘Take up your cross and follow Me’)?”

Take up your cross and follow Me” means being willing to die in order to follow Jesus. This is called “dying to self.” It’s a call to absolute surrender. After each time Jesus commanded cross bearing, He said, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” ([Luke 9:24-25](#)). (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers.

Question: What does dying to self, mean to you? “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” ([John 16:33](#)). Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

Question: Hearing God's Voice: What did Jesus tell us in John 16:33?

➤ **Luke 19:11-27** (NIV)-The Parable of the Ten Minas

11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. 12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

➤ **Luke 9:22**

22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

➤ **Luke 9:57-62:** (*Sub Title-The Cost of Following Jesus*)

"The Cost of Following Jesus

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Question: What are the rewards of following Jesus?

Conclusion:

In closing, the call to “Take up your cross, and Follow Jesus, may not be easy, the road is rough, and the going get’s tough, especially during this season, of coming out, but the rewards are matchless! (John 3:16, Is 53:5)

- In the morning when you rise, make following Jesus your highest priority! (Ps 1, 23, 121:1-8, Ps 34)
- Trust in God’s Word! (Phil 4:13, Rom 8: 31-39, Ps 46, Prov 3; 5-6)

- Be willing to Listen when He speaks to you! (Prov 19:21, Ps 38:2)

Whenever God tells us to do anything, we have the promise of His assistance, His presence, His power, His whatever we need, He's there.

God would never send you empty-handed to do a task. When you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, what happened to you?

He came into your heart to dwell, and the Holy Spirit who now inhabits you, speaks through you, has all the answers you and I need to be obedient to God. He says, I'm going to be with you.

God will always be with you no matter where you go, where He sends you, what goes on in your life. He says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you".

- Be Obedient! (John 14:23, Deut 28:1, 5:33, Mat 22, 28)

- Be Courageous! (Joshua 1:1-16, Heb 13:5-6, Deut 31:6, Is 54:17)

Courage is directly connected to our faith! It's manifested by action, practicing, engaging, and reflecting on who we stand for and believe in. Courage is not an option. God will push us through every uncomfortable circumstances we encounter, and then He will give us the strength we need and tell us to stand up and be of good courage!

The enemy is the father of lies. Our God is the Father of Truth!

Don't give up! Don't Give In! The fight is fixed, but the bible say's you're gonna win (1Corin 9:24)! Believe in the Power of the Blood and the Holy Spirit! God Got You in His hands! He got the whole world in His hands! Praise God!

Amen

Conclusion

My brothers, this ain't the time to be soft. God created us in His own image to be mighty men of valor. As believers we know, God will bring us through our trials and tribulations

This is the time for us to take up our cross, and focus on preparing ourselves to receive what God has planned for us

For if God is for us who can be against us!

Don't give up! Don't Give In! The fight is fixed, but the bible say's you're gonna win (1Corin 9:24)!

Believe in the Power of the Blood and the Holy Spirit!

God Got You in His hands! He got the whole world in His hands!

Praise God!

Amen

Feedback, Assessment, Looking Ahead

Closing Song: At the Cross

Closing Prayer: