

The Navigators Kansas Communities Ministry Men's Retreat

April 26-27, 2019

The Marks of a Committed Disciple

Session 3: Embracing Christ's Leadership and Ownership of Our Lives

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you understand as being the significance of "taking up your cross"? What do you understand our cross to be?

2. What are the consequences of taking up our cross and following Jesus? What does it "cost" us?

I. Take up Your Cross: In calling people to be His committed disciples, Christ beckons his disciples to willingly submit themselves to His leadership and ownership of their lives

A. Christ's call to take up one's cross falls in the middle step of a three-fold process- Matthew 16:24

- Let him deny himself
- And take up His cross
- And follow me

B. Christ's call to take up one's cross involves a daily decision on the part of Christ's disciple- Luke 9:23

- To take up your cross daily involves a consistent submission of His authority over your life
- To take up one's cross daily involves being obedient to Christ and His reign over your life

C. The requirement that a disciple "take up his cross" means "to submit to the rule against which he was formerly in rebellion."- Michael Green

D. The consequences of taking up one's cross can include suffering for His name's sake-

- Suffering for His name's sake often occurs in the life of one who pursues His highest purposes- 2 Timothy 3:10:12
- Suffering for His name's sake occurs in a person whose life reflects a devotion to the gospel- Philippians 1:27-29

- Following Christ in His directions for our life expresses our love for Him- John 21:15-19

Takeaways:

1. Receiving Christ as Savior and walking with Christ as a growing disciple are both done on the basis of faith in Christ- Colossians 2:6-7
2. In this world we will have struggles that can make us aware that following Christ is the only way to face all we will face in this life- John 16:33
3. The disciple's walk is a life of opposites- you die to live, you give and yet you receive, you humble yourself, and He exalts you- Matthew 8:34-35; Luke 6:38; James 4:10