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Crossbearing

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CROSSBEARING
Matt. 16:24-27

Many delight in wearing the name, despise the standard.
Multitudes desire joys of Chr. life; despair qualifications
Only one way to inherit Christian blessings: obey Christ.

I. CHRIST TAKES ONLY THOSE WHO COME WILLINGLY.
A. Becoming Christian matter of promise, not coercion.
C. Least we can do is obey Him willingly. Not force us.

II. CONVERSION REQUIRES DENIALS.
A. Impossible to be converted and remain same. II Cor. 5:17.
B. Did not say deny Devil, deny others—Deny self.
C. Yet, Devil gets those who refuse to deny themselves.
   1. Those who feel self-sufficient. I Cor. 10:12.
D. He who will not deny himself, denies himself Christ.

III. EVERY CHRISTIAN CARRIES A PERSONAL CROSS.
A. If literal would present a marching army of crosses.
B. Means a burden, suffering, trials or temptations.
   2. Suffering to watch loved ones stay doomed.
C. Can no more be Christian without a cross than a body
   can live without lifegiving blood.
D. Eternal life, the reward for a life of bitter struggle.

IV. A CHRISTIAN FOLLOWS CHRIST ONLY.
A. Animals follow their animalistic lusts. Inferior to man.
B. Man often descends to animal level. Generic. Guideless.
D. Foolish wisemen follow their own conceit. I Cor. 1:21.

INV: Prayer: Give courage to hearts of those who wish to obey.
* Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission, and in the end it shall carry you. 

Thomas A. Kempis

Murderers:

Judas - hung
Pilate - suicide
Herod - died in exile
Caiaphas - deposed year after crucifixion
Anna - home burned, son dragged through streets - murdered.