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Carrying A Cross

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Matthew 16:24-27

Setting of Lesson text important to this lesson.

- INT:
- 1-4 Pharisees seek a sign from Jesus: tempting Him.
 - 6-12 Jesus warns apostles against Pharisees' example.
 - 13-20 Jesus questions the apostles about His identity.
 - 21-23 Peter rebukes Christ and is rebuked.
 - 24-28 What it costs to be a disciple of Christ. V. 21!

Cost of Sanitship! Discipleship!

major premise

I. GREATEST LIFE ON EARTH IS ONE OF CARRYING A CROSS.

"Wearing a cross cannot take the place of bearing a cross!"

"The cross-bearers here will be the only crown-wearers over there."

A. Jesus teaches 3 prerequisites to being a true Christian

1. Self-denial. Rom. 12:1-2. Phil. 2:5. II Cor. 5:17.

"When one becomes a Christian he takes up infinitely more than he gives up."

a. Great Spiritual Struggle. Poem: I Carried My Cross.

2. Cross lifting. I Cor. 6:19-20. Matt. 5:16.

"Carry the cross patiently and with perfect submission and in the end the cross will carry you." Thomas A. Kempis.

Nothing in life, worthwhile, is free.

YES! "The cheese is always free in the mousetrap, but you never see a happy mouse in it!"

a. World is flocking to Communism today. Why?

X It COSTS a high price! Must have merit! (?)

(Read article) *X* Ill. Communism demands total dedication.

3. Follow Christ. John 14:6. John 6:68. SING: 183.

(We ought to be the singingest people on earth!!!)

INV: Following Christ involves three things in this audience.

1. Obeying the gospel! Three reasons for doing so.

a. I'm lost in sin. Rom. 3:23. 6:23.

b. I have a Father who wants to save me. John 3:16.

c. I cannot lead others to the cross where I have never been. *B-R-CB* Children, mate, friends.

2. Being restored! Three reasons for doing so.

a. I am lost in sin. I Thess. 1:7-9.

b. Have an open door of escape. Acts 8:22. *R-P*

c. I cannot lead others to where I am not! *AT THE CROSS.*

3. Identify in my new neighborhood. Three reasons!

a. If I don't get busy I'll backslide into neglect. *DOM*

b. Church needs your attendance and influence.

c. Told to serve under elders. Heb. 13:17.