

THE

CHRISTIAN

*L*IFE

God's Love



St Marks Bible Education

Surrender

Week 04

INTRODUCTION

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Mark 8:34

Around the world, more than 200 million Christians suffer persecution for their faith in Christ. Many have to meet in secret, while those who do not often risk their lives.

Consider the following:

- How would things be different in your life if you knew you might be persecuted for your faith in Jesus?
- How would your _____ group / _____ change?
- What things in your _____ life would you no longer be able to do?

MESSAGE

Modern Martyrs

_____ (The goddess of love) was revered by the _____. April was the month to consider the triumphs of this goddess. _____ was a Roman centurion, who dared raise his voice against this popular custom. He not only refused to take part in this heathen ceremony but denounced Venus herself. The crowd ceased him and dragged him before a judge. The judge ordered him before the temple to be _____ by two guards. Who the handed him to the public _____ to be beheaded.

Modern Context

Sometimes we as Christians feel like we are outcast _____ and _____ because of our standing with the Lord. It's about submission and giving up the things we know are wrong. We as Christians shouldn't meet God on our terms, we should meet God on his terms. Most of the time we want the best of _____, we want God in case things go bad, just in case we die or for a shoulder to lean on.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Mark 8:34

APPLICATION

In Luke 9:23, Jesus has a similar conversation with His disciple Peter. What additional information does this conversation give about how frequently we must "take up our cross"?

You belong to Christ, not to yourself. You were bought at a high price by Jesus' death on the cross. In order to follow Christ, there is a sense of denial of your own needs for the sake of Christ's purposes. What needs, wants or desires in your life are the hardest to give up for the Lord's sake?

What is your *cross*?

In the passage from Luke 9:23, Jesus says that we must take up our cross *daily*. Why is this not a one-time deal? Why must you do this every day?

What has being a Christian cost you? What has been the cost of becoming Christ's follower in your relationships at home, at school or at work?

REFLECT

In a survey people were asked if they would be willing do any of the following for 10 million dollars. These are the results:

- Abandon your entire _____ – 25%
- Abandon your _____ – 25%
- Become _____ for a week or more – 23%
- Leave your _____ – 16%
- _____ a stranger – 7%
- Put your children up for adoption – _____%

What would you give your life for?

In the passage in Mark 8:34-37, Jesus is asking for our lives. Do you think His request is literal or metaphoric?

Give illustrations of people you know who have gained all the world has to offer but do not have the blessings of a relationship with God.

VERSE TO REMEMBER

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:11-13