



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Your Cross of Self Denial

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is nearly half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. He wants to withdraw to a city, yet Jerusalem is down the road and His mission continues to drive Him to cure, heal and most importantly preach the kingdom of God. In the following passages, Jesus is describing the attributes, character and consequence of being His follower.

*“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. “But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9: 23-27 NASB)*

**Salvation and discipleship.** Luke records that Jesus had just told His apostles that he would be killed, buried and resurrected on the third day. Jesus now tells the disciples the cost of their discipleship. He tells them of a self-denial that is described as a daily cross. While Jesus' method of on a cross was yet to come, the disciples were very familiar with this cruel Roman form of punishment. To be His follower or disciple they must be prepared to assume a similar daily form of punishment from the world.

The world did not like Jesus and that similar dislike will be transferred to His followers. The disciples are not above the master and since the world hated Christ, the disciples must be ready to be hated by the world as well.

**Salvation cost, loss and gain.** Jesus is saying that there will be a cost to follow Him, a price to be paid. Salvation is what Christ did for man that man could not do for himself (Eph 2:8-9). Jesus gave His life to pay the price for those who call Him Savior and Lord. It cost Jesus all. Discipleship is what believers do for Christ (Eph 2:10-11). Jesus is saying that following Him will cost the disciples their old life, one that was self centered. The disciple's new life is to be Christ centered, resulting in eternal life with Christ. Jesus shares that elevating temporal pleasures and stuff in this world and life, above accepting and following Him, is a poor trade-off resulting in eternal life separated from God.

**Jesus sounds a warning to those ashamed of Him.** Luke records that Jesus said that if disciples, His followers, are ashamed of Him in this world, that He would be ashamed of them before the Father. Disciples are not called to be “stealth” followers. As Paul states they are called to boldly proclaim the gospel of their faith. When challenged, will those who call themselves followers or disciples stand firm in their faith or will they deny Christ and His Lordship in their lives? Denying Christ for selfish and worldly approval is the eternal mistake.

***Salvation is what Christ did for man that man could not do for himself. Discipleship is what believers do for Christ.***

### For Your Consideration:

- Do you daily deny yourself and take up your cross to follow Jesus?
- Have you lost your self-centered belief for one that is Christ centered?
- Are you publically ashamed of Jesus?

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### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44