

# DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SURRENDER DAILY

Luke 9:23-25

# DEVOTED

WHAT DOES A FULLY DEVOTED LIFE TO JESUS LOOK LIKE?

**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT, “THIS  
ISN’T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR”?**

# JESUS'S INVITATION

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- Jesus is inviting all people into a relationship with Him
- You don't clean yourself up to follow Jesus
  - You come to Him and He's the one who begins to change you.
- Jesus knows everything about you, yet still invites you into a relationship with Him
  - His invitation isn't based on who you are...it's based on who He is

*"And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me...'"*

**LUKE 9:23**

**ARE YOU FOLLOWING JESUS  
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO OR BECAUSE  
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO?**

# GIVE UP YOUR OWN PLANS AND WAYS

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- Deny yourself
  - No longer living for yourself
  - Willingly lay down your plans, preferences, and agendas for the one you're following
- It's a shift from self-centered living to Jesus-centered living
  - From asking, "What do I want?" to "What does Jesus want?"

*"let him deny himself..."*

**LUKE 9:23**

# GIVE UP YOUR OWN PLANS AND WAYS

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- Because of sin, every one of us has desires that are broken or aimed in the wrong direction.
- To deny yourself means:
  - Recognizing your sin
  - Refusing to let sinful desires control you
  - Putting your old way of life to death
  - Choosing to walk by the Spirit
- To deny yourself is to admit: “I’m not the solution to my problems... Jesus is”

*“let him deny himself...”*

**LUKE 9:23**

# EXAMPLES OF SINFUL FLESH AND DENYING OURSELVES:

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## 1. Control & Pride – “I’m in charge”

a. Denying yourself: let Jesus lead, follow God’s word

## 2. Comfort & Convenience – “I just want what’s easy”

a. Denying yourself: obedience to the Lord no matter what

## 3. Approval & Comparison – “I need people to like me”

a. Denying yourself: Valuing Jesus’ approval all else

## 4. Impulses & Selfish Desires – “I want it now”

a. Denying yourself: choosing self-control over instant pleasure

## 5. Bitterness & Independence – “I don’t need to forgive, I don’t need God”

a. Denying yourself: forgiving and depending on Jesus daily

**WHAT MIGHT JESUS BE ASKING YOU TO LET  
GO OF IN ORDER TO FULLY FOLLOW HIM?**

# TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

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- The cross was never about self-expression or self-fulfillment.
  - It was a symbol of surrender.
  - If someone took up a cross, they never came back.
- Not occasionally, but daily
  - Following Jesus is a daily decision to lay down control and live in obedience

*“and take up his cross daily...”*

**LUKE 9:23**



**THERE IS NO CROWN WITHOUT A CROSS**

# HOW TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

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1. Obedience when it's uncomfortable
2. Faithfulness when it's unpopular
3. Self-control what you want, when you want
4. Forgiveness when you've been hurt
5. Dependence on Jesus instead of yourself

# FOLLOW ME

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- This is the invitation, and the command, full circle: follow me
- His invitation isn't about punishment, it's about transformation
  - Jesus is saying, "stop trying to control your life"
  - What feels like losing your life, is how real life begins

*"...and follow me."*

**LUKE 9:23**

*“14 Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. 15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life **will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ,** who died and was raised for them. 16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-17**

# LETTING GO LEADS TO FREEDOM

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- You don't truly live until you die to self
  - In the kingdom of Jesus, resurrection always follows surrender
  - Which means this should reshape how we live now
  - Nothing surrendered to Jesus is ever wasted or truly lost
  - When we release our lives into His hands, we don't end up with less.
    - We finally discover what real life was meant to be all along (John 10:10).

*"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."*

**LUKE 9:24**

# LETTING GO LEADS TO TRUE WEALTH

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- Everything this world offers is temporary: it fades, breaks, and ultimately cannot satisfy.
  - *“And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them... Yet when I considered all that my hands had done... behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind.” -Ecc. 2:10-11*
- If your life is centered on what the world offers, you will never be fully satisfied.
- Apart from Christ, you can gain everything this world has to offer and still lose what matters most.

*“For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”*

**LUKE 9:25**

# LETTING GO LEADS TO TRUE WEALTH

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- What you gain is far greater than what you give up:
  - A restored relationship with God (Eph. 2:13)
  - Citizenship in the Kingdom of God (Phil. 3:20)
  - Everlasting life (John 17:3)
- Jesus is inviting you to find life in its fullest, truest form
  - Following Jesus is a call to transformation, surrender, and trust.
    - It's worth it!

# CALL TO ACTION

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- When you see students in church, let them know their presence matters!
  - Encourage and remind them that they belong here and there's a place for them.
  - Talk with them, pray with them, ask them what God is teaching them - disciple them.
- Show them what a fully devoted life to Jesus actually looks like.
  - Show them what it looks like to take up your cross daily.
- **One of the most powerful ways we invest in the next generation is by being fully devoted followers of Jesus ourselves.**

**SCAN TO REGISTER  
TO ATTEND**



# *Youth* **AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, MAY 9 - 5:30 PM**

**APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, GIFT CARDS, AND MORE!**



**A FULLY DEVOTED LIFE TO JESUS CHOOSES  
HIS WILL OVER YOURS, EVERY SINGLE DAY.**

**Following Jesus isn't adding Him to your life, it's giving  
Him control of it.**