

"The Demands of True Discipleship" (Part 2)

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*"And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and **take up his cross** and follow me.'"*

Mark 8:34 (ESV)

Parallel Texts: Isa. 53:1-7; Mark 10:45; Luke 9:23; John 6:38; 12:24-26; 15:18-20; Phil. 1:29-30; 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 12:1-2; James 4:4; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 John 3:13

Study Questions:

- 1. What do you think Jesus means when He calls the would-be disciple to "take up his cross"?*
- 2. Why is it seemingly so tempting to preach a "pain-free" Gospel (i.e, a crown without a cross)? Why might we be wrongly persuaded to tell others that "coming to Jesus will make your life easier"?*
- 3. In what ways did "suffering" mark the life of our Savior? In what ways ought it to mark our own lives as Christians?*
- 4. What stands out to you about Isaiah's "suffering servant" prophesy about Christ in Isaiah 53?*
- 5. What kind of "suffering" can we as Christians expect to endure during our days here on Earth?*