

Uncomfortable Cross

Mark 8:34; Mark 10:43-45

Following Christ is not just obeying what he said but doing what he did. The comfort of the crown is at the end of the path of an uncomfortable cross Good disciples follow instruction and demonstration Following Christ is a commitment to a crown and a cross

Introduction

According to the 2013 movie Terms and Conditions May Apply, it would take the average American 180 hours per year to read all the “terms and conditions” he or she agrees to on websites and other agreements. It is no wonder that almost everyone checks the box indicating they agree with these lengthy documents filled with legal jargon. In fact, most of us would not understand it even if we read it. The point of the movie is that we are often agreeing to things that could end up costing us that which we never expected.

Many people who make a decision for Christ do not read the “terms and conditions” before saying “Yes!” Then when the road is difficult and Jesus calls us to suffer, we ask, “Why?” We must count the cost before committing to follow him. And follow—for it will be worth all you have to give and more than he will ever ask of you.

Quote

A commitment to Christ requires a commitment to the Cross

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Bible Verse

Mark 8:34(ESV)

34 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.

1. I'm Not First

Bible Verse

Mark 8:34(ESV)

34 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

Bible Verse

Mark 8:31–33(ESV)

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Explanation

Bible Verse

Mark 9:35(ESV)

35 And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

Bible Verse

Mark 10:43–45(ESV)

43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Quote

A wrong view of Messiahship leads to a wrong view of discipleship

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Illustration

Illustrate your point.

Application

2. It's Not Worth It

Bible Verse

Mark 8:34(ESV)

34 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.

Explanation

Bible Verse

Mark 8:35–38(ESV)

35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Illustration

Illustrate your point.

Quote

Sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love even more

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Bible Verse

Mark 10:20–22(ESV)

20 And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Quote

A comfortable Cross will bring a worthless crown

Quote

You can't carry your comfort and your cross at the same time.

Application

3. Not My Way

Bible Verse

Mark 8:34(ESV)

34 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.

Explanation

Bible Verse

Mark 8:31(ESV)

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Quote

True comfort is not found in where I am or what I have, but in who I follow

Bible Verse

Romans 8:16–18(ESV)

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Bible Verse

2 Timothy 4:7–8(ESV)

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Quote

The path may demand a cross but the destination demands a crown
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Illustration

Illustrate your point.

Application

Conclusion