**THREE PREREQUISITES FOR THE DISCIPLE**

 **#2 CROSS-BEARING**

 LUKE 14:25-35 (15-24)

 Luke 9:24

Deny yourself - take up your cross - follow Him

**The cross - an instrument of death – it represents death.**

**The cross - an instrument of shame - Hebrews 12:2**

**We take the cross for granted - sometimes consider it no more than decoration - when we consider it at all!**

He who refuses to be a cross-bearer cannot be a disciple of Jesus (Luke 14:27).

**To become a disciple is to become like the one you follow.**

-includes sacrificial, loving service to others:

loving enemies forgiving others

helping the needy witnes­sing

befriending the lonely enduring hardships

-all the while following the example of the one whom you obey and serve

**SACRIFICE RELATIONSHIPS** **Matthew 10:34-38**

To carry a cross is to turn your back on everything (people, relationships, wealth, material possessions, careers, ambitions, hopes, dreams) that has ever had any meaning or value to you.

Bearing a cross and bearing a burden are not the same thing, and the people of the day knew the difference. When they saw one being taken away by the soldiers of Rome, bearing a cross as he went, they knew what was to happen; they knew that death was about to happen, because that's what a cross meant to them.

The cross should ever be our standard

 - not as a banner that is carried before us as we march into battle

- but because we are ex­horted by Christ to carry our cross so that in our thinking we shall be certainly reminded of the Cross of Christ and measure all things by that.

**SACRIFICE MATERIAL POSSESSIONS** **Mark 10:17-22**

**Luke 14 -** Count the cost:

a-1) The builder is free to do as he chooses

b-1) The king is being invaded; he must do something

a-2) Jesus says - sit down and see whether you can afford to follow me

b-2) Jesus says - sit down and reckon whether you can afford to refuse my demands

**What does it cost you?** EVERYTHING!

**The terms of Jesus' invitation to follow Him must be clear before it is accepted:**

**Jesus warns people against following Him without an awareness of the consequences and a willingness to accept them.**

**Those who accept must be willing to offer up (sacrifice) all other relationships, interests and ambitions on the altar of their commitment.**

Is a life committed to Jesus Christ wasted ?

What about all the potential of that person ?

With all of his potential,

what of the wealth and position that is possible for that person ?

The potential of being great,

the greatest in his field ?

But think - with that much potential harnessed in the cause of Christ, how much more can be done to further that cause.

Only personal ambition is sacrificed, not potential

- placed at His disposal it will be used to the utmost.

**Once again - it is a matter of priorities:**

**`Where your treasure is, there is your heart also.'**

Colossians 2:20 - Why do we insist on measuring spiritual things with the world's standards ?

Galatians 2:20 Galatians 5:24 II Corinthians 4:10-11

Back to what discipleship is all about -

**So that His life may be revealed in us !**

**That's it in a nutshell;**

**- when people see you they see Jesus**

**When people see you, what do they see ?**

**Do they recognize that there is something different about you ?**

**Do others see Jesus in you ?**

DISCUSSION

Scriptures: LUKE 14:25-35 (15-24); Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 10:34-38; Mark 10:17-22; Colossians 2:20; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 5:24;
2 Corinthians 4:10-11

1.Where is your treasure?

2.What are you willing to sacrifice to be a true follower?