

“Take Up Your Cross!”

Based on Mark 8:34-38(NIV) February 25, 2018

Neil Peck, preaching

† The Latin word for “cross” is crux and means a pivotal point.

† In Jesus’ day, the cross was the greatest symbol of shame.

† We learn 3 things about the call of the cross:

1) I must deny my whole self.

† If there is something more important than Jesus, then that is what I need to deny in my life.

2) I must choose the cross.

† It is a voluntary and daily decision in my life.

† Jesus is calling me to choose to die to the part of life I am living so that new life in Jesus may be born in me.

3) Follow Jesus.

† Jesus’ invitation isn’t just to follow him, it is to join him.

† My cross(es) can often be responsibilities that I hold dearly.

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Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

How many crosses do I have in my house? Why?

What is something I need to deny myself of to follow Jesus more fully?

What "crosses" (responsibilities) has God given me?

What parts of my life need to die to allow new life in Christ in me?

What is God calling me to do? Will I do it?

The Way of the Cross

Mark 8:34-38 (NIV)

34 Then Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."