

Deny Yourself

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it,
but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24

Mary, Joseph, and the Magi paid a high _____ for being written into the Christmas story.

God's story does continue, and we are _____ into it.

_____ Jesus involves a radical call of obedience at whatever the cost may be.

Is your faith a _____ faith or a _____ faith?

"Taking up your cross" involves unwavering _____ to the trials and afflictions that God allows in the course of following Him.

There are great _____ for those who take up their cross and follow Jesus:

- A. There is victory over _____. (1 Peter 4:1)
- B. There is intimate _____ with Christ. (Phil 3:10)
- C. You fulfill God's _____. (1 Peter 2:20-21)

Denying yourself _____ out of _____ for Christ and involves doing whatever is necessary to accomplish God's will.

1. It means _____ to make decisions independent of God's will.
2. It means patiently _____ ridicule because of the name of Christ.
3. It means _____ every word & deed on how they show God's love.
4. It means _____ the distraction of worldly things and activities.

Bringing the Message to Life

Jot down a brief answer to the following questions

1. Reflecting on this week's sermon, is there any principle or insight that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
2. Define what it means to be a successful Christian.
3. Which of the three benefits to taking up your cross do you see as holding the greatest value? Why?
4. Describe what surrender to the Lord looks like (or should look like).
5. Which of the four characteristics of taking up your cross and denying yourself represents the greatest growth challenge for you? Explain.