

Saving your life/ Losing your life

Luke 9:23-25

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself.

What did Jesus mean when He said this?

What He didn't mean—a burden that we must carry in our lives—strained relationship, thankless job, physical illness, or thinking that your life is not as good as you would like it to be. Our pride come in and we say to ourselves "This is the cross that I have to carry."

How can we do what the Lord is asking?

1st—Deny self

We should deny our selfish wants that would keep us from doing what the Lord would want us to do. What is keeping us from Him?

Romans 12:1-2—present your bodies as a living sacrifice

Matt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God.....

Matt. 6:19-21

2nd—Take up your cross and follow Jesus

Giving your whole life to God. Jesus being our example

In the passages where Jesus is quoted saying this, the context is his crucifixion and resurrection. Also he asks His disciples previous to this; "who do the people say that I am?" His person is tied directly to His redemptive work of salvation by crucifixion (death) and His resurrection by which he conquered death through victory.

He invites His disciples to follow Him but sternly declares to them the cost of being a disciple (self-denial, willing obedience despite the cost and to go where He went, through pain, suffering, death to be received into Heaven victorious in the presence of the Father God, the holy angels, and Himself our blessed Savior and Redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is overflowing with this key doctrine, The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because of Adam and Eve's sin (the Fall) sin has been passed on to every man, sin is our inheritance when we come into this world, it is therefore part of our nature; "So then they who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8) But Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a man was sinless because he was the only begotten Son of God. God said from Heaven of Him "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Every thought, word, action, miracle of Jesus was for God's glory and directed Him closer and closer to the Cross of Calvary and His crowning, beautiful, terrible redemptive work of Salvation.

In John 12:21-28, we see another instance where Jesus states this theme but in a different context. This one shows the glorious aspect of Christ's redemptive work on the cross.

Salvation can only be made possible to all believers in Jesus except through Christ's death and resurrection.

Luke 9:23 adds the word "daily."

Everyday our eyes need to be on Jesus
3rd—Losing your life.

Luke 9:25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

When we are doing our own will our focus is not on the Lord's will. The only way to do God's will is repent. When we repent then our lives become His.

Following Jesus could mean—

Losing some of your closets friends

Alienation from your family

Loss of your reputation

Losing your Job

Or something bigger.....Losing your life

Our Lord never said it was going to be easy but he will always be with us.

Joshua 1:5

—People from scripture that have lost their life to gain their life in a real or figurative sense— Some examples could be: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Isaac, Esther, Job, Ruth, Moses, the prophets, Jesus Christ—the ultimate and principal demonstration of this theme, the Apostles, new testament believers and Christians throughout time up to the present day.