

THE BURDEN OF THE CROSS
Mark 8:34-35

“Then he called the crowd to him along with the disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.” - Mark 8:34-35

1. Cross-Bearing Is _____

“...take up his cross...”

- Suffering with a disease is not cross-bearing
- Dealing with the damage of a tornado is not cross-bearing
- Losing a loved one is not cross-bearing
- Bearing our cross is proactive, not reactive!

2. Cross-Bearing Is _____

“...loses his life for me and for the gospel...”

- Bearing our cross is a demonstration of our love for others
- Bearing our cross requires showing love for even those that hate us
- A cross-bearer is best described by 1 Cor. 13
- Bearing our cross means denying and sacrificing for someone else

3. Cross-Bearing Is _____

“...deny himself...”

- Bearing our cross is not the path of least resistance
- 1 Cor. 1:22-24 reminds us of the difficulty of this path
- To the Jews the cross was a _____
- Bearing our cross requires that we get out of the easy chair
- Bearing our cross means getting involved
- To the Greeks the cross was _____
- Giving up comfort doesn't make sense to some

“...If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple...” Luke 14:26-27

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