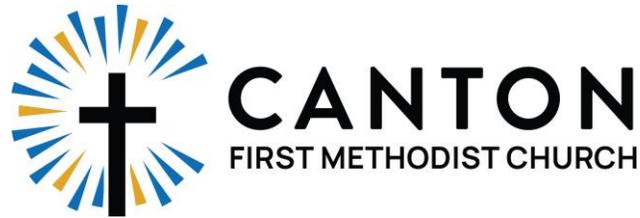


Sermon Title: The Way of the Cross: Take Up Your Cross

Sermon Scripture: Luke 9:23-26



## **Sermon Discussion Guide (3/01)**

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

### **Scripture**

Read Luke 9:23-26 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

### **Observation**

What does the word “daily” reveal to us about our calling? How does the word “daily” challenge an understanding of living out our faith only on Sundays?

What is the importance of the phrase “follow me” in these verses? What does the phrase teach us about the nature of discipleship?

What contrast is presented in these verses between control and surrender? What is the result of a surrendered life? What is the result of a life where we seek to hold on to control?

Read Luke 9:21-22. What do these verses tell us about the life and character of Jesus? What is the significance of Jesus’s walk to the cross preceding the invitation we have received in the present time?

## **Application**

The cross is not something we endure. It is some One we follow. How does this statement help you to choose trust and obedience even when you are scared of what you will lose or unsure of what the future will hold?

What area of your daily life are you tempted to hide or minimize your faith? What might it look like for you to live with a bold and courageous faith in this area of your life?

In Pastor Kenny's sermon, he asked us where we felt frozen in our lives? Whether that is with a relationship that needs reconciliation, bitterness that needs to die, control that needs to be released, or a step of faith that has been delayed. How would you answer this question? How is Jesus calling you to trust Him in this step of obedience so that you can experience the redemption that will follow?

As we journey towards Easter together, we are making space to abide in Jesus through various practices. This week, you are invited to practice abiding by carrying out an act of sacrificial service. In what specific way will you serve and pray for someone else?

## **Prayer**

Gracious God, we hear again Your call to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow You. We confess how often we fall short of this invitation. Forgive us for when we cling to control, comfort, and the need to be right. Give us the grace to loosen our grip on our lives so that we may find true life in surrendering ourselves to You, our good and faithful Shepherd. Lead us this week into quiet and sacrificial love. Make us people who follow You not in shame or hesitation, but in humble and courageous faith. Amen.