



“Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”  
– Luke 14:27

# The Way of the Cross

# The Way of the Cross

- Self-denial

- “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matt. 16:24)

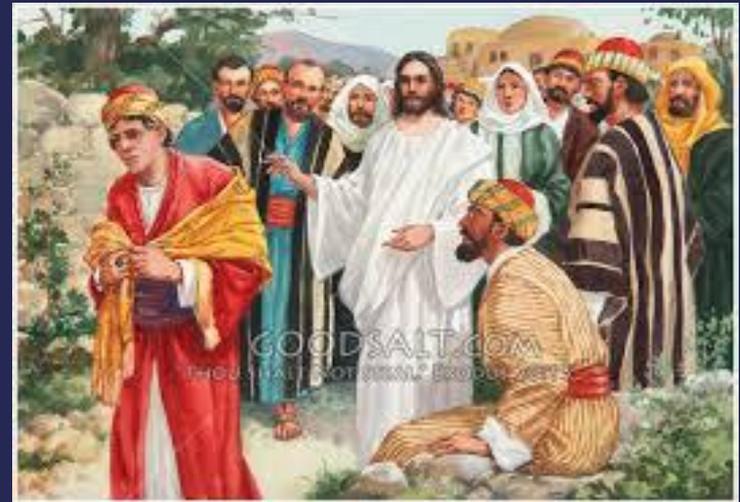
- Suffering for the truth, what is good, and for what is holy

- “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Tim. 3:12)



# The Way of the Cross

- Concerned about the unseen rather than the seen
  - “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:25-26)
  - EX: Rich Young Ruler
- The difficult way



# The Way of the Cross

- The Narrow Way
  - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matt. 7:13-14)
- The Unpopular way



# Transformations

## ○ Defeat to Victory

- *“Holy Mighty, who by weakness showed forth what is greater than power.”* (Paschal Prayers, 6<sup>th</sup> hour of Great Friday)
- *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”* (1 Cor 15:53-55)

# Transformations

- **Fear to Courage**

- EX: Disciples

- **Shame to honor**

- "...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb.12:2).

- "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake" (2 Cor. 12:10)

# Transformation

## ○ Shame to honor

- “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)
- “Grant me, O my Savior, to consider Your suffering my treasure, the crown of thorns my glory, Your sorrows my joy, Your bitterness my sweetness, Your blood my life, and Your love my pride, and my thanksgiving.” (St. Gregory of Nazianzus)

# Transformation

## ○ Shame to honor

- “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)
- “Grant me, O my Savior, to consider Your suffering my treasure, the crown of thorns my glory, Your sorrows my joy, Your bitterness my sweetness, Your blood my life, and Your love my pride, and my thanksgiving.” (St. Gregory of Nazianzus)

# Transformation

## ○ Shame to honor

- “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)
- “Grant me, O my Savior, to consider Your suffering my treasure, the crown of thorns my glory, Your sorrows my joy, Your bitterness my sweetness, Your blood my life, and Your love my pride, and my thanksgiving.” (St. Gregory of Nazianzus)

# Transformation

## ○ Death to Life

- “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...” (Rom. 6:5)
- “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.” (1 Jn. 3:14)