

## Getting Started

Then Jesus said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

- What does it look like to be a “cross-bearer?”
- What challenged you most from this week’s message?

## Discussion

- Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,<sup>[a]</sup> arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. <sup>4</sup> With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; <sup>5</sup> but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- As a Christian, how do you balance your love for liberty with the call to share in the fellowship of Jesus’ suffering?
- What are examples of things you are willing to give up in exchange for God to get greater glory through your obedience?
- Explain how the words from 1 John 2:15-17 and Philippians 3:7-11 summarize much of Pastor’s John message this week.

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- In 1 Peter 4:7-11, Peter provides some practical commands for how we should live in the face of suffering and adversity for our faith. Why do you think Peter highlighted the following attitudes and behaviors? Discuss how you can live these out in your life in this season.
  - Be self-controlled and sober-minded
  - Pray
  - Love earnestly
  - Forgive others (Love covers over a multitude of sins)
  - Show hospitality
  - Use God's gifts to serve others
- What is one application that you will put into practice in your life this week based on 1 Peter 4:1-11?

## Prayer