

**Take Up Our Cross**  
**Luke 9:18-27 and Matthew 16:21-23**  
**August 15, 2021**

**“Who do crowds (people) say that I am”?**

He knew, He didn't need to ask, He was “setting” them up for the next question and what He would tell them after He answered.

Who do crowds say Jesus is today?

Good teacher  
Good guy  
Prophet  
Liar  
One of many gods  
Historical figure  
Lunatic

**The bigger question that He asked His disciples and that He asks us is, “Who do you say that I am?”**

Peter said, “The Christ of God.”

If this is who we say He is then look at verses 23-25.

We are not saved from our sins because we take up a cross and follow Jesus, but because we trust the Savior who died on the cross for our sins. After we become children of God, then we become disciples.

**~ Warren Wiersbe**

In other words, I am not saved by what I do, but by what He has done. IF I am saved, then I will be a disciple, follower of Christ.

My former youth Pastor says, “Becoming a Christian is making a one-time decision to become a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ.”

The question is, “Where is our identity found?”

What is it to die to self, what is it not to die to self?

A picture of us, figuratively, dying to ourselves, for it not to be about us.

The opposite is for it to be about me and what I want. This is what the world says. “Just be you.” “Just follow your heart.” “You do you.”

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your <sup>[b]</sup>reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.* **Romans 12:1-2**

**Who do we tell the world He is?**

Starts at home.

Verse 26

Make disciples!

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.* **Matthew 28:19-20**

For us the cross of the Lord should be seen in at least two lights:

- 1) Christ died for my sins, HE saved me, I am saved by trusting in what He has done for me on the cross.
- 2) It's a picture (reminder) of our constant need to die to ourselves.

God has told us to put into practice what we know!

**Prayer Focus:**

- **Who do you say Jesus is?**
- **Are you dying to self?**
- **Are you teaching other's the Truth of Jesus?**