

UNDENIABLE Pt 2

“The Way to Follow”

OUR DEFAULT PHILOSOPHY

Get as much as you can for as little as possible.

Matthew 16:21-27 NIV

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

REFUSE DENIAL

- We resist COMMITMENT!
- We resist SACRIFICE!

SELF PRESERVATION

Self-Preservation becomes Self-Indulgent.

SELF DENIAL

- Self-Denial is not minimizing your worth, but rather maximizing your life.
- Self-Denial is a resolve not to be governed by fear.

Self-denial can easily lead to resentment or self-righteousness.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

- A Kind of Suffering
- A Kind of Sacrifice
- A Kind of Call

Luke 9:23-24 NIV

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross **daily** and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Ephesians 2:15-16 NIV

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Romans 5:8-10 NIV

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

THE CROSS

- The Demonstration of God’s Love
- The Reconciliation of the World

- ➔ So when we are invited to take up our cross, we are invited into this kind of posture.
- ➔ You will not navigate the chaos without taking up your cross.

“What then is the difference between an admirer and a follower? A follower is or strives to be what he admires. An admirer, however, keeps himself personally detached. he fails to see that what is admired involves a claim upon him, and thus fails to be or strive to be what he admires...

As such, they refuse to accept that Christ's life is a demand.” (Soren Kierkegaard)