

What do a girl at Columbine High School in Colorado, five missionaries in South America, and followers of Christ in every century, have in common? Every one of them carried their cross, no matter the cost in this life. Jim Elliot, one of those five young missionaries, journaled, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Countless young lives have accepted the reality that those who follow Jesus may be called at any moment, to stand up for the gospel and in so doing risk their lives. But, is it a risk or an investment?

Calling the _____ to join him:

"Whoever wants to follow ____..."

"_____ yourself"

"Take up [your] _____"

"_____ me"

"Whoever wishes to _____ his life..."

"Whoever _____ his life *for me*..."

Pay attention to the _____ rates:

Personal Application and Interaction

1. When have you been surprised at your willingness to spend money on something?
2. What is the connection between the preceding context and the call of Jesus to take up the cross?
3. Many people refer to their difficult circumstances as the cross they must bear. How can this be far from an adequate grasp of the gravity of Jesus' call to those who want to follow him?
4. How seriously do you think you are taking Jesus when it comes to taking up your cross, denying yourself and following him?
5. Why shouldn't you be concerned about saving your life?
6. In what ways do people exchange their souls to gain that which doesn't last? In what ways have you sensed your own temptation to be seduced by that which is temporal?



Embrace the Way of the Cross

Mark 8:34-38

Pastor John
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