

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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Some people are followers of Selfie. Some are followers of Jesus. The Selfies treasure themselves, love themselves, and serve themselves; followers of Jesus struggle with self, but with the forgiveness and inspiration of Jesus, they treasure others. Love others. Serve others. To Selfies, that's called "crazy." To us, that's called picking up our cross.

1. When you hear people describing a situation in their lives as "their cross to bear," to what are they usually referring? Identify some examples.
2. Read Mark 8:27-38. When Jesus describes to his disciples the cross which is in his future, why does Peter react the way he does? First, think of relational reasons; second, see Gal. 3:13 and Heb. 12:2 to understand how people of their day understood the cross.
3. See Mt. 16:28 and Lk. 9:27. What intriguing statement does Jesus make which Mark omits but is found in the versions Matthew and Luke wrote? Consult your study Bible for two probably explanations of what Jesus meant by this declaration.
4. In your concordance, look up the word "rejected" found in vs. 31, and find other instances of this word being applied to Jesus' experience. Why, as evidenced in the examples you found, can we be sure that Jesus' cross was not a defeat, not an unfortunate turn of events, and not God's plan?
5. Pray and think through what your "cross to bear" is. If you can't identify one, this would be a good time to ask God to put one in your way so that you can pick it up.

Prayer:

Father in heaven, you sent your Son to pick up a cross for us; move us by your Holy Spirit to pick up our cross, so we too are sent by you to reach out with the good news of the forgiveness of our sins. Show us the path forward we are to take with our crosses, so that in all things, we follow you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, one God, now and forever. Amen.