

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Words to Live By

Week 7: The Daily Death the Leads to Life

Some of Jesus' words comfort us. But some words confront us. **Luke 9:23** is one of the most confronting, challenging, and clarifying statements Jesus ever made: "*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny them-selves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*" These are not just words to admire. These are words to live by.

"If you want Me, you must want My cross."

Luke 9:23–24

WHAT DID JESUS ACTUALLY SAY?

- "Deny themselves" — *Aparneomai*
- "Take up" — *Airo*
- "Cross" — *Stauros*
- "Daily" — *Kath' hēmeran*
- "Follow Me" — *Akoloutheō*

"If you want My life, you must embrace My way."

1 — DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH SELF-DENIAL. *"must deny themselves ..."*

Self-Denial is losing the illusion that you are your own god.

2 — DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES DAILY SURRENDER. *"...take up their cross daily..."*

Jesus is saying: "Every day, die to the old you."

3 — DISCIPLESHIP MEANS FOLLOWING HIS WAY. *"...and follow Me."*

Following Jesus is a daily decision.

4— LOSING YOUR LIFE IS HOW YOU FIND IT. *"whoever loses their life for me will save it."*

The life you want is on the other side of the death you fear.

The cross is not the end. It is the beginning.