

**March 18 | Sunday**

Renegade Gospel: The Way of the Cross

Read [Luke 9:23-27](#)



**19 | Mon – If... |** Read [Luke 9:20, 23](#)

When a person truly believes that Jesus is the Son of God, the next step is to follow him. In these verses, Jesus makes it very clear what being his disciple will involve and offers us a choice. The church is full of those who rightly believe that Jesus is God's Son but too many stop there and the world is poorer because of their decision. In what ways have you, or could you move from a being a believer to a follower?

**20 | Tue – ...deny... |** Read [Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1-2 and 8:6](#)

This is a word no one is very fond of, especially in current culture. Everywhere we hear '*You deserve (fill in the blank) because you are worth it!*' Jesus' countercultural words call us to deny Self, that part of us that wants to run life on *our* terms. It will take consistency to rein in our natural inclinations, a daily decision to follow Jesus' way, especially when it conflicts with self-centered desires. What might God be asking of you?

**21 | Wed – ...take up... |** Read [Luke 9:23; Romans 6:11-14](#)

What did Jesus mean when he said these words? Is it a call to 'die' to being in charge of our own lives? To be less quick to judge? To be more intentional about decisions? To see others as uniquely valued in God's eyes also? To make choices consistent with living as Jesus taught us? To do the thing we *really* don't want to do but it is what we *need* to do? What hard and challenging thing do you understand the 'cross' means for you?

**22 | Thu – ...follow... |** Read [Luke 9:23; Romans 12:9-21](#)

To follow Jesus, one must know where he is going. This requires taking time to ponder what Jesus said, what he did and what motivated him. Jesus did not say "Go and do..." He said "Do what I am doing." The familiar WWJD, "What would Jesus do (if he were in my shoes)?" is still a pretty good question to ask ourselves. In fact, if you have decided to intentionally follow Jesus, he *is* in your shoes. So what will you do today? (It is okay to start small.)

**23 | Fri – ...lose... |** Read [Luke 9:24 and 18:28-29](#)

Any important decision should be preceded by considering the pros and cons. This is no different. To become a committed Jesus follower often requires going against the status quo. But in the kingdom of God, 5 + 2 does not always equal 7. Sometimes it equals 5000+. What you try to save you could lose, yet what you give away will come back multiplied. Just ask the hungry boy from John 6:6. What are you being asked to give away?

**24 | Sat – ...gain... |** Read [Luke 9:25 and Philippians 3:7-11](#)

What is the bottom line for you? If your obituary was written today, what would it say? What would you *want* it to say? Faithfully following Jesus, living *his* way, will not disappoint in the end. The most important things are not material goods we acquire. The relationships we develop, the people we invest in, peace with God and the peace of God - these will last forever. What would you give up for these treasures?