

# **SERIES: CHALLENGES**

**DATE:** Saturday - Sunday, August 13-14, 2022

**SERMON:** The Challenge of Taking Up Your Cross

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 16:24-28 NIV

[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.

[28] "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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*How do we take the next step?*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your way to the Lord.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ strong and courageous.

*Joshua 1:9* Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ your character.

- \_\_\_\_\_ to show you the changes He wants:
  - work from God's play book.
- \_\_\_\_\_:
  - come clean before God and yourself.
- \_\_\_\_\_:
  - turn your back on your current practice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ daily to God.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ a pathway.

- \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with supportive people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ God's Spirit. *Ephesians 5:18*
- \_\_\_\_\_ God's armor. *Ephesians 6:10-18*
- \_\_\_\_\_ your soul:
  - With Scripture
  - With prayer
  - With service

5. \_\_\_\_\_ on Christ to make this possible.

*"We use no hocus-pocus, no clever tricks, no dishonest manipulation of the Word of God. We speak plain truth." – 2 Corinthians 4:2, J.B. Phillips Translation*

# Lagniappe

## PLEASE READ THIS

*Would you join me in specific and targeted prayer?*

Wednesday night I taught from Joshua 1 and emphasized the cooperation of the people of God in taking the land which the Lord had promised to give them. I then noted how many good and wonderful things can happen when people work together.

We have all seen the truth of that statement.

I then asked that group, *"What would happen if all of us gathered together and prayed for the same need?"*

I had not planned to do this, but I then asked them to pray specifically **this targeted prayer - that God would give us a great harvest this weekend.**

I want to ask you to pray with me and with many of your fellow believers and church members that God would give us a harvest. Over the last month, God has laid on my heart the need for people to turn to God and trust Him as their Lord and Savior. We live in perilous times, and the return of the Lord is closer than ever. Now is the day of salvation.

*Would you pray specifically for people that God lays on your heart? Would you pray continuously for God to bring a great harvest in our midst?*

Many of you read this prior to weekend worship. Would you pray? And, if you read this at the beginning or during the service, would you pray for God to bless us with a harvest of souls?

