

## Abide & Follow in 2020

“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’” Luke 9:23

### A Disciple Of Jesus Denies Himself To Follow Jesus

*The follower of Jesus must deny himself (not just his sins, himself; he cannot be self-centered). There is nothing self-indulgent about being a Christian. The disciples had probably seen a man take up his cross, and they knew what it meant. When a man from one of their villages took up a cross and went off with a little band of Roman soldiers, he was on a one-way journey. He would not be back. Taking up the cross meant the utmost in self-denial. This is Luke’s first use of the word cross and it comes with striking effect. Christ’s follower has died to a whole way of life (cf. 14:27). Luke tells us that this is not something that can be finished and got out of the way: it must be done daily. Leon Morris, Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*

Living with a "What about me?" attitude is the anti-thesis of Christ-likeness.

### A Disciple Of Jesus Picks Up His Cross To Follow Jesus

Psalm 39:11 – Because He loves us, God will keep taking away our idols until we follow.

*“Put first things first and we get second things thrown in: put second things first & we lose both first and second things.” The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis, Vol. III*

### A Disciples Of Jesus Follows Jesus

Protects us from sadistic “suffering-seeking”

Protects us from false conviction, condemnation

### Application Questions:

What does it look like to answer Jesus’ “Follow Me” call in these areas of your life?

In your childhood toward your siblings and parents?

In your singleness?      In your marriage?      In your parenting?

In your workplace?      In your education?      In your free time?

In your alone time?      In your church community?      In your neighborhood?