

**BECOMING: A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER**  
**Luke 9:23-25 NIV (week 5)handout**

**I. THE TERMS OF FAITHFUL FOLLOWER.**

(23) – *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* Consider:

**A. A Disciple Must Deny (9:23b)**

**First**, a disciple must deny. Jesus said in Luke 9:23b, “. . . *let him deny himself.*”;

1. The Greek verb “to deny” is a strong word of negation that in this case means to forget oneself entirely, to reject any thought of doing what will please ourselves rather than God;
2. When Jesus humbled himself, he denied himself the glories of heaven... When he obeyed the Law, he denied himself the pleasures of sin...
3. This means saying **no** to sin, no to ungodly attitudes, no to unhealthy relationships, no to self-indulgent acquisitions, no to things that waste our time, and no to physical pleasures that sap our spiritual strength.

**B. A Disciple Must Take Up (9:23c)**

Jesus said in Luke 9:23c, “. . . *and take up his cross daily.*”

1. Jews were familiar with Roman crucifixion. They had seen condemned people carrying their crosses to their own execution. To take up one’s cross was to accept death;
2. He was speaking specifically of taking up our cross for his sake, the hardships we encounter because of our commitment to him.

**C. A Disciple Must Follow (9:23d)**

Jesus said in Luke 9:23b, “. . . *and follow me.*”

1. Jesus was calling his followers to wholehearted discipleship.
2. Jesus wanted people to know that if they were not willing to die for him, then they were not worthy to be his disciples...
3. That means that you are willing to experience suffering, rejection, and even death in your commitment to follow Jesus.

**II. THE TRADE-OFF OF A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER (24) –**

Jesus then went on to say in verse 24, *“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”*

1. This is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian life. In order to save your life, you must lose your life.
2. It was this tradeoff that led Jim Elliot to make his well-known statement, *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”*....;

**III. THE TRAGEDY OF A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER (25) –**

Jesus said in verse 25, *“For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”*

1. Jesus said that it is possible for a person gain everything the world had to offer: power, prosperity, and prestige. But would that be worth it in comparison to losing one's soul?
2. The many followers of Christ sought world influence and power over and above heavenly reward
3. Avoiding the walk to death with Jesus means that we may gain the whole world - and end up losing everything.