

When the Cross Seems Too Heavy

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INTRODUCTION:

- i. We cannot escape the reality of the cross
 - Many frequently want its rewards, but few want its burdens or responsibilities – **Matt. 7:13-14**
 - We are called to take up and bear our cross – **Luke 9:23; 14:27**
- ii. There are times when the cross seems too heavy to bear and we are tempted to lay it down – **cf. Luke 23:26**

DISCUSSION:

I. LIVING AS A NEW CREATURE AMONG SINNERS

- A. Walking as a new creature means living differently than others (often a lonely existence) – **Eph. 4:17-24**
- B. The world will indeed think us strange for living this way, adding to the weight of our cross! – **1 Pet. 4:1-5**

II. PREACHING RIGHTEOUSNESS IN A SINFUL WORLD

- A. The constant call to preach the gospel can easily become a toilsome burden – **Mark 16:15-16**
- B. Preaching righteousness in the face of persecution and rejection makes it even more burdensome – **Acts 8:1-4**
- C. Yet, we are mindful of Noah and his work as a preacher of righteousness – **2 Pet. 2:4-5**

III. ASSEMBLING AND WORSHIPPING AMIDST DISTRACTION

- A. The reality of a warning not to forsake expresses the potentiality of such becoming a burden – **Heb. 10:23-25**
- B. Does assembling and worship make us glad or is it a weariness to us? – **cf. Psa. 122:1 w/ Mal 1:6-13**

IV. SACRIFICING FOR HIM WHILE OTHERS DO NOT

- A. Sacrifices for the cross come in all shapes and sizes. Are we willing to make them (even when the smallest of sacrifices starts to feel like too much)? – **Mark 10:21-31**
- B. Is the cost of discipleship taxing to you? – **Luke 14:25-33**

V. FACING REJECTION FROM WORLDLY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- A. When your family and friends become your enemies for the sake of the cross, the cross will feel incredibly heavy – **Matt. 10:32-38**
- B. Where the world takes, God gives. Are we truly willing to leave all to follow Him? – **cf. Luke 18:28-30**

CONCLUSION:

- i. Consider the consequences of not taking up and bearing your cross...
 - Enjoying the passing pleasures of sin – **Heb. 11:24-26**
 - Reaping what you have sown – **Gal. 6:8**
 - Denying Him leads to being denied – **Luke 12:8-9**
- ii. The struggle of the cross is real. Are we willing to endure? – **Heb. 12:1-2**