

SOHL
WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

Ruling over your world

March 5, 2018

MATTHEW 16:24 NKJV – (24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Put Satan into this picture. What is he going to do to us? Through disinformation and affecting our attitudes, he will lead us toward self-satisfaction, not self-denial, because self-satisfaction is the essence of sin. When we sin, we bring upon ourselves the death penalty.

To teach the right lesson, Jesus immediately taught—to counteract what Satan was carefully teaching through Peter—that the way to the Kingdom of God is through self-denial, not self-satisfaction. Satan will try to persuade us not to deny ourselves but to fulfill ourselves at the expense of others.

Jesus mentions three points which belong to the character of a **true disciple**. The first is self-denial. Let him **deny** himself. There is no better test of reality and earnestness in the religious life than this. If a man follows Jesus, it must be by his own free will, and he must voluntarily renounce everything that might hinder his discipleship, denying himself even in things lawful that he may approach the likeness of his Master. Take up his cross. The second point. This must be done, "daily." He must not only be resigned to bear what is brought upon him - suffering, shame, and death, which he cannot escape, but be eager to endure it, meet it with a solemn joy, be glad that he is counted worthy of it. The third point. He must be energetic and active, not passive only and resigned, but with all zeal tracking his Master's footsteps, which lead on the way of sorrows. Here too is comfort; he is not called to a task as yet untried; Christ has gone before, and in his strength he may be strong.

A true disciple of Christ is one that does follow Him in duty, and shall follow Him to glory. He is one that walks in the same way Christ walked in, is led by His Spirit, and treads in His steps, where ever he goes. Let him deny himself. If self-denial be a hard lesson, it is no more than what our Master learned and practiced, to redeem us, and to teach us.

SCRIPTURE READING

I CORINTHIANS 2:2

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When you allow God to lead you through a trial, you get to see Him for yourself.