

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? Luke 9:23-25 (NIV)*

## **Deny Myself**

**What do you want? Your entire life will be guided by how you answer that one question. All that you think, say and do will be directed by what you want. There are really only two answers to my question.** How could there be only two answers to your question. **Oh, I'm absolutely sure that you already know the two answers to my question.** If you're positive then I must have the answers. **That's right.**

I will start with my answer. I want you. I know that you want me. You love me. You came into this world to rescue me from a life without you. You died on the cross so that I could be forgiven of all my sins and cleansed of all my righteousness. You pursued me when I was walking on a path away from you. You turned my life around. I told you that I would turn away from my sin so I could follow you. **What do you mean by saying that you want me?** I want to know you. I want to love you. I want to serve you. My life is in your hands. I am at your service. I will go where you guide me. I will do all that you ask of me. I want to live the life that you have called me to live. I will deny myself and take up the cross and follow you. How often will you deny yourself and take up the cross and follow me. I will deny myself and take up the cross to follow you everyday from now and until I meet you face to face. **That will be very good. What is the other answer to my question?**

The other answer to your question is not my answer. **Let me hear the answer that you have rejected.** There are two answers. There are only two choices. I can live my life with and for you or I can live my life for all that the world has to offer. I can lose my life for you by going and doing whatever you ask of me or I can lose my life by pursuing all that the world has to offer. Pursuing the world and all it has to offer is a tragic mistake. **Yes, it is.** Pursuing the world and all it has to offer leads to death now and forever. **Yes, it does.** Choosing to deny myself, take up my cross and follow you leads to life now and forever. **Yes, it does.** I am choosing to live the life that you have called me to live. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, thank you for drawing me to you. I am coming after you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. I will deny myself and take up the cross, as I love, follow, and serve you. It is my joy to lose myself in your service. I am all yours. Amen*

**If** *Come After Me*

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

NIV Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Be My Follower*

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"

NLT Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Become My Followers*

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"

NRSV Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Come After Me*

And He said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself [disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself] and take up his cross daily and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also]. For whoever would preserve his life and save it will lose and destroy it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he will preserve and save it [from the penalty of eternal death]. For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and ruins or forfeits (loses) himself?

AMP Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Come After Me*

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

NASB Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Come After Me*

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

ESV Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Come After Me*

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

NKJV Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Come With Me*

Then he told them what they could expect for themselves: "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat—I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you?"

MSG Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Follow Me*

Then he said to all, "Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it; and what profit is there in gaining the whole world when it means forfeiting one's self?"

TLB Luke 9:23-25

**If** *Follow Me*

Jesus said to all of them, "If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want. They must be willing to give up their lives daily to follow me. Those who want to save their lives will give up true life. But those who give up their lives for me will have true life. It is worth nothing for them to have the whole world if they themselves are destroyed or lost."

NCV Luke 9:23-25



**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you lose your life for Christ by denying yourself and taking up His cross daily.*

---

---

---

**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will deny myself and take up the cross as I follow you.*

---

---

---

**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

---

---

---

---

---

**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I deny myself and take up the cross as I follow you today?*

---

---

---