**R970 Rumination for Aug. 27, 2023**

The **T**heme: **The Great Cross-Bearer- Pt. 2** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

**The T**ext: *Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp,* ***bearing His reproach.***Heb. 13:13

The **T**hots: This Rumination is the continuation from the first part last week.

The Main Thots of last week (R. 969 – The Great Cross-Bearer, Pt. 1):

1. **Christ, the Great Cross-Bearer.**
2. **Simon, the Delegated Cross-Bearer.**

**Part 2:**

1. **the Commissioned Cross-Bearers.**
2. The **C**hallenge to **S**imon the **C**yrenian. Mk. 15:21, *YLT*

*And they impress a certain one passing by--Simon, a Cyrenian, coming from the field, the father of Alexander and Rufus--that he may bear his cross.*

1. He was a **P**ressed **P**erson – *they impress a certain one passing by*
2. He was a **P**asser-by – *And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by…* Mk. 15:21
3. He was **C**aught by the **O**ccasion
4. He was **C**ompelled by the **O**pportunity.
5. He **C**ame out to the **O**pen.
6. He was not like Other **P**assers-by…
7. **I**ndifferent to the Lord’s **S**uffering. Lam. 1:12

Cp. *Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?* *behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.*

1. **I**rreverent with respect to His **S**acrifice. Mk. 15:29, 30

*And they that passed by railed on Him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, Save thyself, and come down from the cross.*

1. **I**ndifferent to the **S**aviour’s call. Lk. 23:29-41

[Today Christ is passing by and He says, “Follow Me” Mk. 2:14

*And as He passed by, He saw Levi…and said unto him, Follow Me. And he arose and followed Him.*]

1. The **C**hallenge to all **S**incere **C**hristians. Heb. 13:11-13

 *Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.* Heb. 13:13

1. The Challenge to **C**hristians: I Pet. 4:16

*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

1. The Challenge to “*go forth outside the* ***C****amp*”
2. Go and Preach – *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Mk. 16:15
3. Go and Tell – *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?* Rom. 10:14
4. The Challenge to “*Bear the* ***C****ross”*. Lk. 14:27

*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple*.

**The Challenge to Discipleship**

1. **P**riority given to Christ at all Costs. Lk. 14:26, NKJV

*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children,*

*brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.* See Reflections.

1. **P**reparedness to follow Christ at all Costs. Lk. 14:27

*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.*

1. **P**rogress in the Christ’s Life at all Costs. Lk. 14:28-31, 33
* Continuance in the **W**ord – **The Conditions of Discipleship.** Jn. 8:31

 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word,*

 *then are ye My disciples indeed;*

* Love for one another. Jn. 13:35

 *By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

* Fruitfulness in the **W**ork. Jn. 15:8

 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.*

1. The Challenge to “***C****ome”* follow***C****hrist*.
2. *Come unto Me* for **S**alvation. Mt. 11:28

*Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

1. *Come Follow Me* for **S**anctification. Mk. 2:14

*And as he passed by, he saw Levi…and said unto him, Follow Me. And he arose and followed Him.*

 *Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free?*

 *No, there’s a cross for everyone, And there’s a cross for me*. Thomas Shepherd

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R970**

1. What do you understand by this condition set by the Lord Jesus for those who want to be His disciple?

**Luke 14:26, NKJV –** *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

Must a Christian hate the members of his family in order to follow Jesua as His disciple?

This is what John F. Walvoord has to say in his comments on this text in his Commentary:

“*The setting then changed: large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Jesus intended to impress on the people their need to examine their resolve to follow Him. He was on His way to die on the cross. Ultimately everyone did desert Him when He was alone in the garden and then arrested and put on trial.*

*To emphasize that discipleship is difficult, Jesus said that one must hate his own family and even his own life in order to be His disciple. Literally hating one's family would have been a violation of the Law. Since Jesus on several occasions admonished others to fulfil the Law, He must not have meant here that one should literally hate his family. The stress here is on the priority of love (cf. Matt. 10:37). One's loyalty to Jesus must come before his loyalty to his family or even to life itself. Indeed, those who did follow Jesus against their families' desires were probably thought of as hating their families.*

*The second difficult qualification Jesus stressed was that one must carry his (i.e., his own) cross and follow Jesus (Luke 14:27; cf. 9:23). When the Roman Empire crucified a criminal or captive, the victim was often forced to carry his cross part of the way to the crucifixion site. Carrying his cross through the heart of the city was supposed to be a tacit admission that the Roman Empire was correct in the sentence of death imposed on him, an admission that Rome was right and he was wrong. So when Jesus enjoined His followers to carry their crosses and follow Him, He was referring to a public display before others that Jesus was right and that the disciples were following Him even to their deaths. This is exactly what the religious leaders refused to do.”*

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

In the light of the condition Jesus had set for anyone to be His disciple, do you think you can fulfil this condition? Are you a disciple of Jesus? **REFLECT**

1. For your second reflection, here are two quotes from [Thomas à Kempis,](https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/7183781-if-thou-willingly-bear-the-cross-it-will-bear-thee#:~:text=If%20thou%20willingly%20bear%20the%20Cross%2C%20it%20will%20bear%20thee,yet%20thou%20must%20bear%20it.) worth reflecting on with regard to bearing the cross of Christ:
* *He has many who desire His comfort, but few who desire His suffering. All want to rejoice with Him, but few are willing to suffer for Him…there are many who admire His miracles, but there are few who follow in the humiliation of the cross.*
* *If thou willingly bear the Cross, it will bear thee, and will bring thee to the end which thou seekest, even where there shall be the end of suffering; though it shall not be here. If thou bear it unwillingly, thou makest a burden for thyself and greatly increaseth thy load, and yet thou must bear it.*

Peter has this to say: I Pet. 4:12-16 – *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

*­*Is to bear the cross to be a disciple of Jesus Christ a Call to a Comfortable life, filled with Prosperity, Good Health and Wealth? **REFLECT.**

**POINTS TO PONDER:** *We are bid to take, not to make our cross. -* William Gurnall