

Daily Devotion For March 7, 2022

²³ Then he said to them all: “**Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.**” ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?” Luke 9:23-25

Every day we see in the media, Ukrainian men and women who are ready to **take up** arms in order to fight for their independence and freedom. For these brave Ukrainians as well as others who have a willingness to fight, the battle seems daunting.

As we think of our Christian life, Jesus never said it would be easy to follow him. We all have crosses to bear. No one escapes. We may think that riches will buy happiness, but even the wealthiest get sick, lose people they love and eventually die.

There are people who spend their whole life climbing over other people to get to the top whether in business, politics, or wealth, only to discover that they are not happy and have no one left except those who want to pull them down. Fame too can bring more problems than it solves.

In Luke 9:23-25, Jesus reminds us of what is important, that our priorities need to be to love the people, to be kind to strangers, to put God first in our lives. Neither money nor power nor fame will soothe the pain of illness, or the death of a loved one. Jesus tells to pick up our cross daily and follow his will, his plan, and his path. As we do, we will find the meaning of life.

Thought For Today: What cross are you bearing today? Are your priorities the things of God or the things of the world? Take time today to do a priority check.

Today's Prayer Focus: Take time to review this week's updated prayer fuel and the many prayer request. Deo Volente.