

# Following Jesus Means Daily Living as He Lived

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Luke 9:21-27 ▪ Sunday, August 17, 2025 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

\_\_\_\_\_ is required. vv. 24-25

Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_. v. 22

Three Ways We Follow Jesus: v. 23

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## **Luke 9:21-27**

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<sup>[21]</sup> And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>[22]</sup> saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

<sup>[23]</sup> And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>[24]</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>[25]</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>[26]</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>[27]</sup> But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** What is something you recently sacrificed so you could have something you desired more?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 9:21-27

1. After Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ (v. 20), Jesus immediately warns His disciples (v. 21-22) to tell not anyone and then describes His future. Why do you think Jesus responds in this way?
2. Jesus says He “must” suffer, be rejected, and be killed (v. 22). What does this word “must” tell us about the nature of Jesus’ mission and God’s plan? How does that impact your understanding of God’s plan for you?
3. Jesus describes His persecution as coming from the community of God’s people rather than from among those who were outside the community. How can we prepare ourselves to overcome similar treatment? How do we cultivate love and empathy toward those who might persecute believers?
4. Jesus says in verse 23, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up His cross daily and follow me.” What do you think “deny himself” means for you in a practical, daily sense? How do we embrace this habit as a regular disposition of our hearts? What temptations tend to pull us away from adopting this lifestyle?
5. The cross was an instrument of death. What is the significance of Jesus telling His followers to take up their cross daily (v. 23)? What does this imply about what we should expect as followers of Jesus?
6. In verse 24 Jesus presents a paradox: “For whoever would save His life will lose it, but whoever loses His life for my sake will save it.” What would you say this statement means? Can you think of an example of this paradox proving true in your own life or in the life of someone you know?
7. Jesus asks in verse 25, “For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?” What are some “gains of the whole world” that people often chase today? Why do we tend to believe the lie that Jesus plus the world is more than Jesus alone?
8. Jesus warns against being “ashamed of me and of my words” (v. 26). What are some specific situations in our current culture where it might be tempting to be ashamed of Jesus and His words?
9. How does the promise of Jesus’ coming in glory (v. 27) motivate you to “deny yourself” and “take up your cross daily”?

**Apply:** What is a behavior of Jesus you would like to model more in your own life? How could you grow in this area?

**Pray:** Bring these areas before God together as a group, asking God to do His supernatural work in us by the power of His Holy Spirit. If you are unsure where to start, ask Him for discernment.