

11

The Cross in Daily Life

Introduction

Lk 9:23 ... *take up his cross daily and follow Me ...*

- Christ bore the Cross and was crucified;
we are first crucified, and must go on bearing the Cross.
 - The “Cross” is not an after-thought of God.
It was in God’s wisdom even before the
“foundation of the world” (Rev 13:8)
It goes from eternity past into eternity future.
 - Even though there will be no Cross-bearing in Heaven,
the oft-repeated name of Christ there is *“THE LAMB”* —
 1. Worship of the *Lamb* (Rev 5:12)
 2. Wrath of the *Lamb* (6:16)
 3. Shepherding by the *Lamb* (7:17)
 4. Song of the *Lamb* (15:3)
 5. Marriage of the *Lamb* (19:7)
 - The Supper of the *Lamb* (19:9)
 - The Wife of the *Lamb* (21:9)
 6. Apostles of the *Lamb* (21:14)
 7. The *Lamb* is the Temple (21:22)
 8. The *Lamb* is the Light (21:23)
 9. Book of the *Lamb* (21:27)
 10. Throne of the *Lamb* (22:1,3)
- Hallelujah for the Cross!
- Consider “**Daily** Cross” as a “**Daily** Blessing!”
Let’s study 5 of our basic exercises of daily living
and the work of the Cross in each of them —

1. Daily Worship
2. Daily Word-study
3. Daily Work
4. Daily Witnessing
5. Daily Worries

1. Daily Worship & the Cross

- Christ in prayer *“in the days of His flesh”* (Heb 5:7,8)
“cries” ... “tears” ... “fear”

A different kind of teaching is going on today
regarding prayer —

It is void of “reverence and fear.”

It goes to the extent of “commanding” God.

— because we say He is our “Father” —
but the truth is in ... (v8)! ... *“Though He was a Son”*

- Prayer is meant to change **us**, not God!

The Testimony of an answered prayer —

I asked for strength,
and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom,
and God gave me problems to learn to solve.

I asked for prosperity,
and God gave me brain & brawn (muscle) to work.

I asked for courage,
and God gave me dangers to overcome.

I asked for love,
and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favours,
and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted;
I received everything I needed;
My prayer has been answered!

- The Bible abounds with prayers answered differently —

- *Let's make three tabernacles* (Mt 17:4)
- *Permit us to bring down fire as Elijah did* (Lk 9:54)
- *"Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"* (Lk 22:49)
He did not reply, but they acted.
- *Settle the dispute between me and my brother* (Lk 12:13)
- *Give them the left and right hand seats* (Mt 20:21)
- *Come and heal Lazarus* (Jn 11:3)
- *Tell Mary to help me* (Lk 10:40)
- *Send the multitude away* (Mt 14:15)
- *Give me this water* (Jn 4:15)
- *We want to see a sign from You* (Mt 12:38)
- *Remove this thorn* (2 Cor 12:8)
- *"Save Me from death"* (Mt 26:53; Jn 12:27; Heb 5:7) —

But the Father saved Him from the death
of His soul (Acts 2:27).

2. Daily Word-study & the Cross

- Though Bible meditation rejoices our heart,
the primary purpose of Word-study is to transform us
so we may **fit** into God's plan —

Heb 10:5-7, *"I'm here to do it Your way, Oh God,
the way it's described in Your Book!"*

This is what Jesus emphasized to the disciples
on the Road to Emmaus —

Lk 24:25-27 ... *Pentateuch, Psalms, Prophets*

- The Word is actually a **"Sword"** —
It is not a "butter knife"
to spread butter or jam!

The work of the *Sword* —

Heb 4:11-13 ... "sharp as a surgeon's scalpel"
It "is" painful.

But we choose rosy promises from the Bible,
and leave out its demands.

We are simply "standing" on His promises; "sitting" in
His premises; and "sleeping" with the Bibles as pillows —

Use God's Word to **search** you —

It's a lamp.

It's a mirror.

It's a plumbline.

It's fire.

The Bible trims and cuts us to become *"like little children."*
It is a difficult work.

eg) Prophet Elisha stretching himself
on the child of the Shunamite! (2 Ki 4:32-35)

- Repeatedly — "He lay on him 3 times"
- In stages — "He sneezed 7 times and then got up!"

3. Daily Work & the Cross

- Work is a "blessing" from God to man (Gen 2:15).
But after the fall, He added an element of curse to it —
(Gen 3:17-19)

For the man the curse was on his work;
for the woman the curse was on her womb.

It is not lifted yet! (Birthpains are still there.)

Therefore we should not be surprised at the various kinds of difficulties and problems we face in our work and workspot —

- Follow these Principles —

a) Do not murmur over the work or placement.

1 Cor 7:20-24 ... *remain in calling* ...

Joseph was Joseph whether it was prison or palace!

b) Relate rightly to authorities and coworkers.

1 Pet 2:13-22 ... *obedience ... doing good* ...

Accept injustice —

The Cross = *His judgment was taken away from Him!*
(Isa 53:8; 1 Pet 2:23)

c) Be diligent and excel in your work.

We are guilty of many assignments undone, half-done or ill-done!

On the Cross, Jesus triumphantly declared:
"It is finished!"

Only if you have your things "Well done" here, you will have your "Welcome" There!

4. Daily Witnessing & the Cross

Witnessing before a wicked world is nothing but self-denial & cross-bearing —

"If you are embarrassed over Jesus today, you will be a greater embarrassment to Him tomorrow."

Mk 8:34-38

To stand ridicule,
mockery,
opposition,
rejection, etc.

Away with Jesus! ... Away with Paul!

"Let's go outside the gate!" (Heb 13:13)

- *I die daily* ...

I risk hourly ... (1 Cor 15:30-32)

Fighting with *"beasts at Ephesus"*

i.e. Worshippers of "Diana"

Acts 19:24-35 ... They claimed that Diana had come from Heaven!
(= Zeus) v35

We have many such claims in India!

- Let our commitment be —

"As much as is in me,

I am ready to preach the gospel" (Rom 1:15)

"Ready to spend myself and be spent" (2 Cor 12:15)

He gave His back for us (Psa 129:3);

let's give our neck for Him! (Rom 16:4).

5. Daily Worries & the Cross

- There's no man or woman in the world without worries. Worries will continue till we reach the other world where *God will wipe away all our tears.*

But now *"killed all day long"* — Rom 8:35,36

But we have two Helpers —

a) The Spirit here in us (v26)

b) The Saviour there for us (v34)

We do not sorrow over our sorrows,

but our greatest sorrow is the Salvation of others

(Rom 9:1,2)

The secret of the atom's immeasurable and limitless power
is in its being split!

The thorn in Paul's flesh did not intimidate him;
but it inspired him!

- Let's close with Paul's words of encouragement
to Timothy —

2 Tim 2:11,12a

Bear the Cross
Wear the Crown

"THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING!"

