

Upside Down Crosses

February 20th, 2011

The Exchanged Life

Your piddly life for God's abundant Life

And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she broke the box, and poured it on his head. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? . . . And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me . . . Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

Mark 14:3-4,6,9

Worship

The laying down of all you are, the pouring out of all you have, the giving up of all that hinders your soul from gaining more and more of Jesus Christ. Worship is breaking open the perfumed spikenard of your life and body and reverently pouring it on the head and feet of your fair and beloved King. Worship is the act of proclaiming in attitude, in word, in song, in deed, and in body that the glory of God is your singular heart's desire and to see Him exalted and adored is the driving passion of your life.

The 4 ingredients of True Worship

1. **Beholding**, Really Seeing
2. **Trembling**, w/ Genuine Reverence
3. **Denying Self**, “you” out of the way
4. **Demonstrating** True Affection
5. **Gladly Suffering**, Rejoicing in the Exchange

Forsaking all for Christ’s Sake

Sake

Someone’s benefit, advantage, good, well-being, welfare, interest, profit.

Our Sake

Living for our benefit, advantage, good, well-being, welfare, interest, profit

Christ’s Sake

Living for Christ’s benefit, advantage, good, well-being, welfare, interest, profit

Forsake

Giving up all personal benefit for the benefit of another; surrendering earthly advantage for the advantage of another; letting go of that which is good, and prospers your well-being, welfare, and interest, in order that another would find gain; relinquishing profit that another might find riches.

Ten Degrees of Worshipful Exchange

forsaking all that Christ might be all in all

1. Forsake Your Individuality, Embrace an Identity in Christ

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

2. Forsake Your Earthly Course, Embrace His Control

You are not your own . . .

1 Corinthians 6:19

My beloved spoke, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and **come away**.

Song of Solomon 2:10

And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commands us we will do, and **wherever thou send us, we will go**.

Joshua 1:16

Wherever the spirit was to go, **they went . . .**

Ezekiel 1:20

3. Forsake Earthly Comforts, Embrace His Comfort

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

2 Corinthians 11:26-27

But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; **thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Psalm 23:4

4. Forsake Reputation, Embrace Identification with Him

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for **we are made a spectacle unto the world**, and to angels, and to men. **We are fools for Christ's sake**, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are honorable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place;

1 Corinthians 4:9-11

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, **for my sake.**

Matthew 5:11

5. Forsake Earthly Friendships, Embrace Intimacy with the Most High

And Ruth said, entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wherever thou go, I will go; and where thou lodge, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Ruth 1:16

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Psalms 45:10-11

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalms 84:10

6. Forsake Earthly Family, Embrace His Adoption as sons and daughters

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:28-30

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption of sons**. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:4-7

7. Forsake Freedom of Body, Embrace the Intercessor's Call

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Acts 16:22-26

This man (Paul) doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

Acts 26:31

... **I am an ambassador in bonds**: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:20

So that **my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace**, and in all other places; And many of the brethren

in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 1:13-14

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; **but the word of God is not bound.**

2nd Timothy 2:9

8. Forsake Health of Body, Embrace the Power of Suffering

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Hebrews 11:36-37

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

2nd Corinthians 11:23-30

From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Galatians 6:17

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ.

2nd Corinthians 1:5

9. Forsake Life, Embrace the Martyr's Crown

And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owns this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

Acts 21:8-14

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God,

and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; **Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus**, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

2nd Corinthians 4:6-12

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and **to die is gain**.

Philippians 1:20-21

10. Forsake the Easiest Path to Death, Embrace the Glory of God Almighty

Jerome says (of the Apostle Peter) that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was.

Fox's Book of Martyrs - The Martyrdom of Peter

Latreia [Lä-trā'-ä]

The service and worship of God in accordance with the pattern of the Levite

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (your spiritual worship).

Romans 12:1

Do everything without complaining or arguing

Do all things without complaining and disputing (arguing)

Philippians 2:14

The Spikenard

While the king [sitteth] at his table, my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.

Song of Solomon 1:12