

Let's Follow Jesus

Luke 9:23 (NIV®)

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Watch, Listen, Think, Act

I. The Shadow of the Cross

John 12:27–33 (NIV®)

²⁷ "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ **Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine."** ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

II. Jesus' Great Victory

Hebrews 10:1–4 (NIV®)

¹ **The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming**—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5–10 (NIV®)

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.'" ⁸ **First** he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). ⁹ **Then** he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

III. What We Can Do!

A. By the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19–21 (NIV®)

¹⁹ **Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,** ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

B. "Let's Do Our Part"

1. Let's Draw Near to God

Hebrews 10:22 (NIV®)

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

2. Let's Hold on to Hope

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV®)

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

3. Let's Lead with Faith

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV®)

And **let us consider how we may spur one another** on toward love and good deeds.

4. Let's Gather with Believers/Go to Church

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV®)

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

5. Let's Tolerate No Self-Imposed Hindrances

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV®)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles**, and **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us**.

6. Let's Focus on Jesus

Hebrews 12:2–3 (NIV®)

² **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

7. Let's Embrace Disgrace

Hebrews 13:13–14 (NIV®)

¹³ **Let us, then, go to him outside the camp**, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Acts 5:41–42 (NIV®)

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name**. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Proclamation of God's Protection

I rejoice in the protection of Almighty God over my life. I am the Lord's servant; I rest in the completeness of His strength and care. No weapon formed against me will prevail. I will refute every tongue which rises against me, this is my heritage as a servant of the Lord. A thousand may fall at my side but destruction will not overwhelm me. I have made the Most High my dwelling place. God is my refuge and my security. No harm will befall me, no disaster will overtake me. God has commanded His angels to watch over my life. My life and my future are secure through the strength of my Lord and my Redeemer.