

# CARRYING THE CROSS

## Simon's Story

Luke 23:26/ Matthew 27:26-32/ Mark 15:21/ John 19:17

## What Does It Mean To "Carry My Cross"?

### Understanding The Cross We Must Bear Hint: It's Not A Piece of Jewelry

Luke 9:23 & 14:27/ Matthew 10:38-39 & 16:24-25/ Colossians 1:24

## Four Myths That Will Make You Feel Guilty But Can't Make You More Godly

- ✓ **MYTH #1: We Need To Find A Cross To Bear**  
*The Truth: We **accept** our cross, we don't **seek** a cross.*  
Luke 22:39-46/ Philipians 2:8/ John 10:18  
James 1:17 & Ecclesiastes 5:15-19 & 1 Timothy 6:17
  
- ✓ **MYTH #2: We Should Embrace Our Cross With Joy**  
*The Truth: We **endure**, we don't **enjoy** our cross.*  
Hebrews 12:1-3/ James 1:2-4
  
- ✓ **MYTH #3: We're Supposed To Bear Our Cross Alone**  
*The Truth: Some crosses are **too heavy to bear alone.***  
Luke 23:26/ Matthew 27:32/ Galatians 6:2 & 5
  
- ✓ **MYTH #4: My Cross Should Be Your Cross**  
*The Truth: We each have our **own unique** cross to bear.*  
John 21:18-22/ 1 Corinthians 12:7-30

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*The Truth: We \_\_\_\_\_ our cross, we don't \_\_\_\_\_ a cross.*  
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## Food for Thought

For the week of January 8, 2012

(Questions and scriptures for further personal study)

1. Submission is a key element of understanding and putting "self-denial" into action. It's one of those terms that is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. How do the following verses help us better understand what submission is and isn't?

Matthew 26:39, 42

Philippians 2:1-4

John 13:6-10

2. This weekend, we heard about carrying our cross and being obedient to the calling that God has for us. The good news is we don't have to do that on our own. The power that enabled Jesus to carry out his calling came from the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit is available to all genuine Christians. That means we have a supernatural resource to help us do things and make changes that we never thought possible. Read the following passages and identify the Spirit's role in empowering us for ministry.

Acts 1:8

Exodus 31:1-6

John 15:4-5

Why do you think God is so concerned about people relying on his power for ministry, and not their own power?

3. Living out our calling is how God has designed us to live. In fact, the enemy would love to keep us ineffective and confused about our purpose. How does Jesus make our calling incredibly clear in Matthew 22:37-39 and 28:19-20?

How can Jesus' words help us keep our focus simple?