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Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Mark 1:1

¹ The beginning of the gospel (the good news) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Socioeconomic Reality of Jesus' Jerusalem:

- 80% grinding poverty
- 18% blue collar workers (fisherman, carpenters)
- 2% elite that had all wealth all land (Pharisees, Saducees, Herodians)

Mark 8:31, 34-35

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Take up your cross refers to the **specific suffering** a follower of Jesus embraces as they go on mission, confronting all types of evil in a community with the love and power of Jesus.

Mark 10:42-45

⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”