

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## STATION 9: "Response: Jesus' Invitation"

Jesus went to the cross so that YOU could be brought into a right relationship with God. He did it for you. The question is, have you recognized and received His gift?

You're now looking at a window with three crosses outside of a small city. Notice the similarities between this picture and the one with the star of Bethlehem. The three crosses are outside of the city, and the message is pretty clear. We're ashamed of you. We don't want you here. We don't want you near us.

You know, it's easy to look on with anger at the ones who crucified Jesus 2000 years ago, but how often do we do the same thing? Have we placed Christ outside of our everyday lives...somewhere in the outskirts? Jesus is OK for church. But we become really nervous when we think about making Jesus a part of our everyday lives. We're not so comfortable with Jesus at school or work...in our dating life...in our financial decisions...in our casual conversations. Is Jesus on the outskirts of your life, or does he live at the center of every day?

Deitrich Bonhoeffer said, "When Jesus calls a man, he bids him come and die." We can't experience new life until we die to our sin. When we accept his invitation to become Christians, he also invites us to take up our own cross and follow Him, no matter the cost.

Before you leave today, place the stone you picked up in station 2 at the foot of the cross as a symbol of giving Jesus your sins to forgive. In exchange, take one of the small crosses with you as a regular reminder of His call to die to yourself and follow Him. Then move to station 10 at the bell tower as you exit.