

Christ Followers Embraces Self-Denial

Matt 5:38-42 - *You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

So Jesus wants me to offer the other side of my face once someone has already assaulted me. Nope.

If someone sues me to take away my suit, he wants me to give them my over coat also. Maybe, but probably still a NO.

After someone has convinced me to go a mile with them and I have agreed, Jesus wants me choose to go a second mile with them at no request. Once again, maybe, in fact, I may be more amenable to fulfilling, but no guarantee.

Finally, Jesus states we should give to someone who asks and don't deny someone who asks to borrow from you. In a society where we see more and more people requesting assistance while maintaining a lifestyle which indicates they have no desire to better themselves, giving and/or lending makes it extremely challenging to embrace.

Christ-followers Embrace Self-Denial

The Core of Discipleship, or being a Christ-follower is Self-Denial

Matt 16:24 - *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

"If anyone desires to come after Me" - Literally a desire to walk in His footsteps.

This desire is manifested in three ways.

Self-Denial:

Don't hit back.

Give in addition to what you are being asked to surrender.

Go an additional mile

Give and Lend

**Take up YOUR cross:
An instrument of death**

Follow Jesus:

1 Peter 2:18-21 - *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

Context: Peter rebukes Jesus declaring He would not be killed.

Matt 16:22-23 - *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

Preferring ourselves causes us to be focused on the things of this world and makes us susceptible to Satan’s influence.

Matt 16:24-26 - *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**The Vision of Calvary Assembly
Encounter God, Connect with others, and Serve our Community**

**Self-Denial allows people to Encounter God through us.
Self-Denial creates the trust needed for Relational Connection.
Self-Denial positions us to serve sacrificially.**