


Leave Your Troubles Behind 3: Breaking Free of Trouble

April 25–26, 2020

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and take up their cross daily and follow me. — Luke 9:23

 Denying yourself is not Denial

 Denying yourself is not Self-Denial


 Denying yourself is no longer living for yourself

I. Follow the Leader — *Every Great Leader is a Follower*

We pick up Jesus' cross


Galatians 2:20 (NIV) ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV) ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

 Pick up the cross — because of freedom

We follow Jesus — because we could not defeat self on our own

2 Corinthians 4:11 (NIV) ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

 We have a new life in Jesus

II. A Clear Decision Must Be Made

James 4:7–8 (NIV) ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded..

 Submit to God - Humility

 Resist the Devil - Trust a power greater than yourself

III. Decisions We All Need to Make

● Forgiveness — Others and Ourselves

● Repentance — Stopping the behavior

● Health — We choose to be healthy

3 John 1:2 (NIV) “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

● Salvation — We receive new life

 What decisions do you need to make?

Psalm 35:1-3 (NIV) **1** Contend, Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. **2** Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid. **3** Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to me, “I am your salvation.”

● **Watch our TV Program “Growing Closer to God” on NBC 4 Sundays at 12 Noon**

● **New Series begins Next Week - Moving Forward**

This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

Sat Rest Sun Mk 9:14-32; 2 Sam 8-12 Mon Mk 9:33-50; 2 Sam 13-15

Tue Mark 10:1-16; 2 Sam 16-18 Wed Mark 10:17-34; 2 Sam 19-21

Thur Mark 10:35-52; 2 Sam 22-24 Fri Mark 11:1-11; 1 Kings 1-2 Sat Rest