

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me
(Matthew 16:21-27)

When Jesus explained His intention to go to Jerusalem and die,
Peter began to upbraid Him for letting His thoughts go awry.
But Jesus rebuked his disciple, and called him a stumbling block;
And told him that what he was saying was just how the Devil would talk.

He gathered His people around Him and told them how things were to be:
If you want to be my disciple, your duty is dying with Me.
“Take up your cross,” He exhorted, and don’t let the world impede;
You may have to die as a martyr, but follow wherever I lead.

This lesson was not lost on Peter, who died as the Savior had said;
But those of us who are not martyred must reckon ourselves to be dead..
For Christians must die to the world in order to follow the Lord;
And worldly pleasures and profits detract from our final reward.

The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)
Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive to God. (Romans 6:11)

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