

# Take up your cross and follow Jesus!

What will you give in exchange for your soul?

➤=next PowerPoint slide

## ➤ Intro:

- **God has done everything necessary** for us to be saved: plan, Jesus, sacrifice, gospel
- **each person decides** (consciously, unconsciously) whether to obey and be saved, disobey and be lost
  - **Acts 2:40-41** (Peter, Pentecost) be **saved** from this perverse generation
  - **Ja. 1:21** (James) receive the **word** implanted, which is **able to save your souls**
  - **Phil. 2:12** (Paul) **work out your salvation**
- **in other words, everyone decides whether to keep their soul** or exchange it (**Jesus, Mk. 8:34-38**)
  - **Deut. 4:9** (Israel) **keep your soul** diligently
- **What have you decided? obey and be saved / exchange your soul** for the passing pleasures of sin

## ➤ How do you keep your soul? — not exchange it

- **Mk. 8:34-38** Jesus, 4 things

### ➤ - #1 deny self (vs. 34)

- **Phil. 2:7-8** as Jesus denied Himself - emptied self, humbled, left heaven, slave, cross
- **Mk. 10:23-25** it's hard to deny self (**illus.: diet**)

### ➤2 - **Matt. 7:13-14** few willing

### ➤ - #2 take up cross (vs. 34)

- **“cross”** symbolic of whatever sacrifice or trial is involved in obey Christ

- 4 - **Rom. 6:6** crucified with Christ — **1 Cor. 15:31b** die daily — **Col. 3:5 a** death, earthly body
- **Matt. 10:34-39** cost — **2 Tim. 3:12** all have a cost to pay — **Satan will make sure you pay (1 Pet. 5:8)**
- **Have you taken up your cross? What is the cost for you? Are you paying the cost?**

### ➤ - #3 follow Jesus (vs. 34)

- **1 Pet. 2:21** walk in footsteps — deny self and take up cross
- **illus.: Who Will Follow Jesus (#347)** — will you follow Him?

- 2 - **Matt. 10:25a** be like Jesus - servant not greater than master / student not greater than teacher
- **illus.: O To Be Like Thee (#97)** — are you like Him?

### ➤ - #4 lose your life (vs. 35) — by doing the above - do what Jesus want not what you want

- **illus.: Have Thine Own Way Lord (#146)** — be clay, lose life, let Jesus mold you into what He wants)

- **What's the profit, if you decide to forfeit your soul? (vs. 36-37)**
- **2 - Heb. 11:25 forfeit soul for the passing pleasures of sin — moment of sin for eternal punishment**
  - **definition:** “Something surrendered or subject to surrender as punishment for a crime, an offense, an error, or a breach of contract” (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition).
  - **illus.:** “forfeit” - Allstars Forfeit Championship Game — broke rules, penalty = forfeit
- **2 - Matt. 25:41, 46 exchange for hell?, some people want to go there**
  - **illus.:** went to store and got wrong kind of Cheerios (not Honey Nut) , went to store and exchanged one item for another soul exchange for passing pleasures of sin
  - **illus.:** People Who Sell Their Souls - \$1325.00
- **Remember what's important! (vs. 38, not be ashamed of Jesus)**
  - **R- Matt. 6:33 seek God first**
    - **illus.:** A Reminder if What's Really Important - sometimes we forget what's really important in life
- **Summary / Inv.**
  - **God has done everything necessary** for us to be saved: plan, Jesus, sacrifice, gospel
  - **each person decides** (consciously, unconsciously) whether to obey and be saved, disobey and be lost
    - **in other words, everyone decides whether to keep their soul** or exchange it (Jesus, Mk. 8:34-38)
  - **What have you decided? obey and be saved / exchange your soul** for the passing pleasures of sin
  - **What will you give in exchange for your soul?**
    - I hope nothing
- **Inv.**
  - **Will you take up your cross and follow Jesus?**