

No Mere Accessory

(<https://www.harvest.org/devotions-and-blogs/daily-devotions/2017-11-25>)

As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.— Luke 23:26

For many, the cross is nothing more than a fashionable ornament—an accessory, if you will. We can buy them in gold or sterling silver, studded with pearls or diamonds. But the cross on which Jesus died was no fashion accessory. It was a crude wooden device developed by the Romans that functioned as a literal torture rack for those who died on it.

The Bible tells us that Simon, a Cyrenian, was selected to bear the cross of Jesus. He was a visitor to Jerusalem. We don't know why he was there that day. Maybe he was in town for the Passover, or perhaps he saw the commotion and went to see what was going on. Whatever his reason for being there, Simon was given one of the greatest privileges afforded to anyone in human history.

We, too, have that privilege today. Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus is still looking for people like Simon to pick up the cross and carry it.

Sometimes people say, "My cross in life is my children. They are my cross to bear" or "My cross in life is my disability." However, the cross is not something that is troubling us. The cross is the same for every person. And in first-century Jerusalem, the people who were carrying crosses were on their way to die.

So when Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily," what was He saying? To take up your cross is to put God's will above your own. It is to die to your ambitions, to your plans, and to your choices. To take up your cross is to love God more than anyone or anything else.

News and Notes

- Our annual Christmas party will be December 16, at 6pm here at the building. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (under \$10) and a finger food to share.
- If you have a prayer request you would like added please fill out the prayer request card in the pocket of the seat in front of you or email prayer@scottsbluffchurchofchrist.org.

Birthdays

Shannon Griffiths 11/06 Jeremy Sanderson 11/14
If you birthday has been inadvertently left off this list please let Shannon know.

Those Serving

11/26/2017

Opening Prayer	Shane	Table: West	Jay
Song Leader	Chris	Center	Gary
Scripture Reader	Shane	East	Shane
Closing Prayer	Jeremy	Preacher:	Tom
Devotion:	Jay	Song Leader:	Tom

12/3/2017

Opening Prayer	Table: West
Song Leader	Center
Scripture Reader	East
Closing Prayer	Preacher:
Devotion:	Song Leader: