

# Discipleship and the Cross

*John 19:17-42*

**Main idea:** To explore the connection between discipleship and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and to challenge listeners to live out their commitment to Christ in practical ways.

**Topic:** Discipleship

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Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on discipleship and the cross:

1. Emphasize the significance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross:

- Expand on the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, highlighting the physical and emotional pain He endured (Matthew 27:27-31).
- Discuss the theological implications of Jesus' death, such as the atonement for sin and the reconciliation between God and humanity (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

2. Explore the call to discipleship:

- Discuss the cost of discipleship and the commitment required to follow Jesus (Luke 9:23-26).
- Highlight the examples of faithful disciples in the Bible, such as Peter, John, and Mary, who stood by Jesus even in His crucifixion (John 19:25-27).

3. Connect discipleship to the cross:

- Explain how the cross serves as a model for discipleship, as Jesus selflessly gave His life for others (Mark 10:45).
- Discuss the transformative power of the cross in shaping our lives and character as disciples (Galatians 2:20).

#### 4. Address the practical implications of discipleship:

- Offer practical suggestions for living out discipleship in daily life, such as serving others, sharing the Gospel, and growing in spiritual disciplines (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 12:1-2).
- Encourage your listeners to reflect on their own commitment to discipleship and challenge them to take steps towards deeper devotion to Christ.

#### Additional Scripture verses to support your sermon:

- Luke 14:27 - "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."
- Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"

#### Language suggestions from the original languages:

- In John 19:30, Jesus says, "It is finished." The Greek word used here is "tetelestai," which carries the meaning of completion, fulfillment, and accomplishment. Highlight the significance of Jesus' finished work on the cross and its implications for discipleship.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and Scripture passages into your existing sermon outline, reinforcing your main points and providing a deeper understanding of discipleship and the cross.