

How Close Are  
You Willing To  
Get To The  
Cross?



## **Luke 23:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.

# How Close Are You Willing To Get To The Cross?

*Christianity is not a spectator sport!*



## Matthew 21:9 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!"

## **John 19:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate \*said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him."



## Mark 15:11-13 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> But the chief priests stirred up the crowd *to ask* him to release Barabbas for them instead.

<sup>12</sup> Answering again, Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?" <sup>13</sup> They shouted back, "Crucify Him!"

# How Close Are You Willing To Get To The Cross?

- *Preconceived expectations*
- *Unfulfilled restorations*
- *Misunderstood anticipations*
- *A change in validations*

One breath they praise Him the second  
breath the want to crucify Him!

## Revelation 3:15-16 (NASB)

<sup>15</sup> 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

<sup>16</sup> 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.



## **1 John 2:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

## Titus 1:16 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

## **Luke 6:46 (NASB)**

<sup>46</sup> "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

## 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

## Isaiah 29:13 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,  
[meaning habitual repetition]



# Three ways to know if you are a luke warm Christian.

- *First you don't seek God before you make decisions.*
- *Second your friends don't take your walk seriously.*
- *Third you want to know how far you can push the limits with God.*

The cross is a sign of  
perfection, how close are  
you willing to get to the  
cross?



## **Matthew 16:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

## Mark 15:21 (NASB)

<sup>21</sup> They \*pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.

Could they have been Him, nothing happens by coincidence?

## **Matthew 16:24 (NASB)**

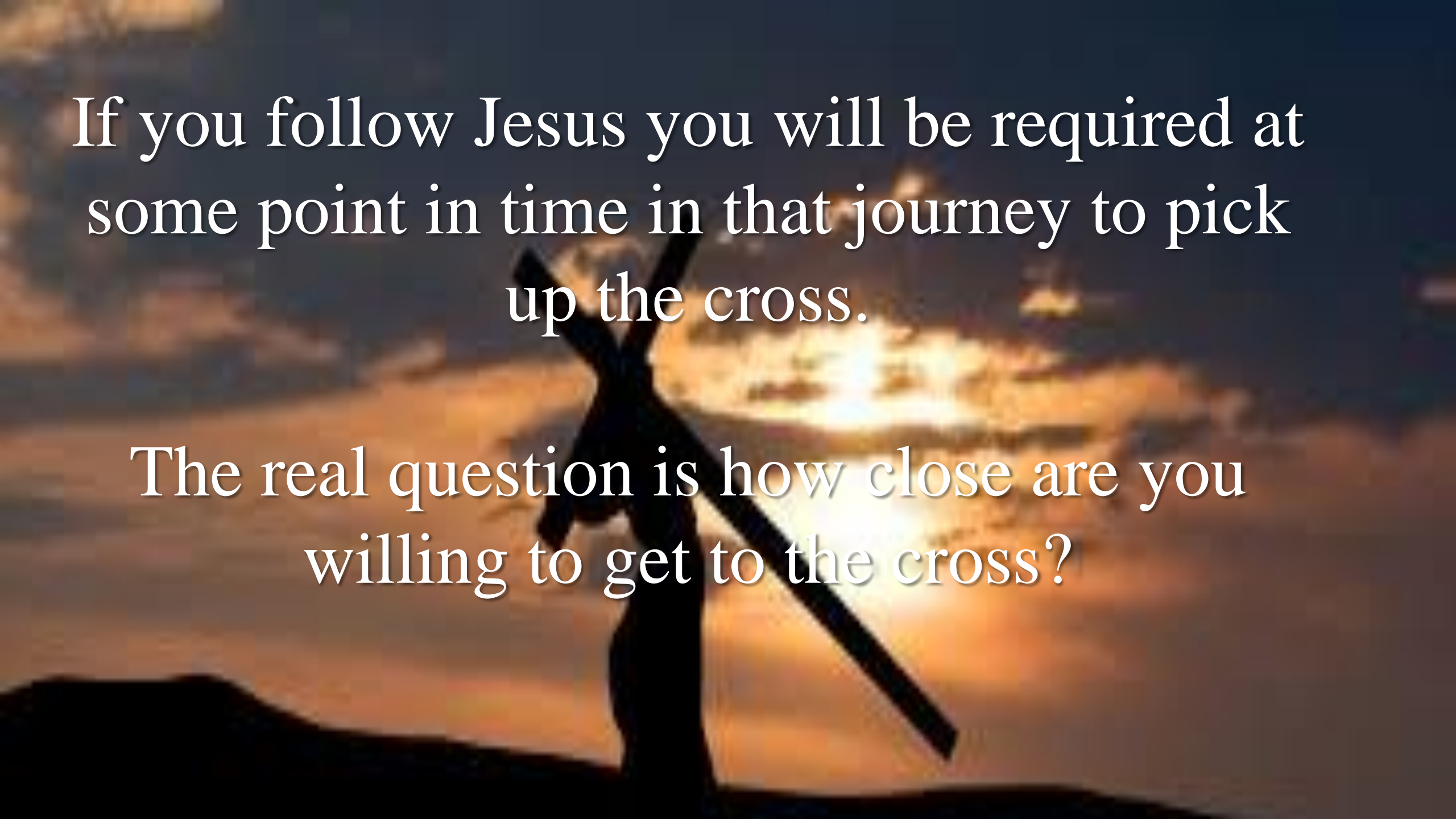
<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.



Man is to deny his whole  
self, all his natural motives  
& impulses so far as they  
come into conflict with the  
claims of Christ.



*How Close To The Cross Are You Willing to Come?*

A large, dark silhouette of a cross is centered in the image. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright, glowing sun partially obscured by clouds, creating a warm, orange and yellow light. The horizon is visible at the bottom, showing dark silhouettes of land or hills.

If you follow Jesus you will be required at  
some point in time in that journey to pick  
up the cross.

The real question is how close are you  
willing to get to the cross?



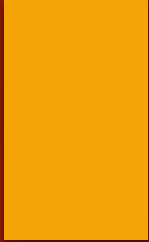
## **Acts 1:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

## **Ephesians 4:1-2 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,  
implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the  
calling with which you have been called,  
<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with  
patience, showing tolerance for one another in  
love,





Simon had religion & devotion; after  
meeting Jesus Simon had reality & the  
understanding of salvation!

How about You?



It All Depends  
On How Close  
Are You  
Willing To Get  
To The Cross?

















