



EVERYONE'S *invited*



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER
January 25, 2026

TO TAKE UP THEIR CROSS

Pastor David Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? Matthew 16:24-26 (NLT)

1. Jesus invites me to surrender control..

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

2. Jesus invites me to sacrifice .

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

3. Jesus invites me to true life.

...if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Matthew 16:25b (NLT)

And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Matthew 16:26 (NLT)

Jesus said, “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10b (NLT)..



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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CONNECT

Have you ever started something and then realized how challenging it was going to be to continue? Did you keep going? Stop?

ENGAGE

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

GROW

1. Read Matthew 16:24-26. Have someone read it again out loud. Let it sink in for a moment. What rises to the surface as you hear it and think about Jesus' words?
2. When you hear Jesus say, "give up your own way," what emotions surface for you—resistance, fear, relief, curiosity? Why do you think that is?
3. The message compared surrendering to following a GPS. Can you think of a time when ignoring God's direction led to frustration or regret? What did you learn from that experience?
4. What is one comfort, habit, or priority that might be competing with wholehearted following of Jesus in your life right now?
5. Jesus asks, "What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul?" How would you define "gaining the world" in today's culture, and where do you feel that pressure personally?

LEAD (YOURSELF)

As you reflect on Jesus' invitation to follow Him, what is one practical step you sense God inviting you to take this week—something that moves you from simply agreeing with Jesus to actually following Him?