

Take Your Cross and Follow After Me

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:37-42

When we speak about the cross, immediately our minds are flashed with thoughts about the wooden log on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Each person who lives for the Lord in this world has a cross for himself. It is not a cross made of wood. Each person carries different cross. A few would carry the cross of unhealed sickness, not being able to accomplish our plans, going through reproach and many such problems can be considered as our cross. Only when we go through the cross appointed for our life will we be able to receive the crown that's reserved for us.

I remember a story I once read. One day an old woman went to Jesus and said that the cross she was carrying is very heavy and she was not able to carry it. Then Jesus took that woman to a room filled with different types of crosses. There were crosses made of wood, silver, bronze and many such varieties. Jesus said to her, 'take any cross that you like'. She searched the entire room and selected a very beautiful cross that was made of gold. She carried the cross and walked for a distance. After a while she was not able to carry it. She came back to Jesus and said that she would take some other cross and selected a cross made of silver. After a short distance, she was not able to carry that too. She was greatly burdened. She came back to Jesus and said that she was not able to carry even than one. She pleaded if she could take another one. The same thing continued. At last she carried a small beautiful cross made of wood. She said that she was able carry the cross with much ease. Then Jesus said to the woman that it was the cross reserved for her. We can carry only the cross that is reserved for us. We should never compare our life's struggles and challenges with that of others. Different people have different types of problems and struggles. God will allow problems and struggles only to the measure that you can bear. He also gives you a way through which you can come out free. Never worry about the cross you carry.

Questions:

1. What do you mean by cross?
2. Who should carry your cross?
3. What's the benefit of carrying the cross?