

APRIL 7

Communion is...

Communion is necessary for daily spiritual thriving. It is necessary for me to eat physically. How much more necessary for me to eat spiritually?

Read Matthew 27:32

It is interesting to hear the name of the one who was chosen to carry the cross of Jesus... Simon. See there was another named Simon in Jesus' life... we know Him as Simon Peter. Jesus knew Him as close friend now wandered away and hiding in the shadows. **I wonder if he was the Simon who was really supposed to carry Jesus' cross.**

We won't know, but we do know these words that Jesus shared just days before... *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?"* Matthew 16:24-26.

So regardless of whether or not Simon Peter should have been bearing the weight of the literal beams down the road to Golgotha, Simon Peter and every one of Jesus' followers, including you and me, are called to pick up our cross and be willing to carry it. **Meaning we are called to be willing to die to ourselves and find our true life in Jesus!**

In Matthew 27: 32, we find that the soldiers had to press Simon into carrying Jesus' cross. The idea is he was forced. It wasn't like he jumped at the chance and said, "Pick me!" Why? **Because this was a dangerous mob scene, and anyone could see that stepping in to carry Jesus' cross would most likely cost you your life.**

Just like what we know of choosing to take up our cross and follow Jesus. He told us it would cost us our lives. See, when we take up our cross, what we are really saying is, we are willing to lose our life and find it anew in Jesus.

I personally believe Simon Peter should have been the one carrying Jesus' cross. We know that he had every intention to be there for Jesus. But when the need arose, he ran away in fear.

What about you and me? Have we run away from the call? Do we have to be pressed? Or are we fully willing and stepping up? **Thankfully, we now know the end of the story.** Both of these Simons did not.

But again, we do! And we can sit at the communion table with Jesus and hear that victorious story over and over again as we willingly choose to **take up our cross and follow Him over and over again every day.**

Prayer Conversation Starter...

Jesus, I hear Your call to take up my cross and I am willing. You took up Your cross for me. And I am willing to take up my cross and follow You. **Strengthen me to willingly make that choice every day...**



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