

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
March 28th, 2021
Matthew 10:38

RECAP: Last week, we looked at this statement in v. 37, in which Christ makes it clear that He is to be our top priority in all things. Our affection for Him should be paramount.

THESIS: Jesus expects no less of disciples than to be prepared to suffer the worst of deaths for His sake.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 10:38 (*see also Matt. 16:24, Mark 8:34-35; and Luke 9:23-24*)

- **“Whoever must take up.”** This Greek phrase is simple enough, with the verb being the standard Greek word for “taking, receiving something to yourself.”
- **“their cross.”** The Greek word “*stauros*” is used here, quite woodenly and literally a “standing post, standing up stake, post of wood.” This sounds ambiguous, but make no mistake, everyone around them knew exactly what this meant.
- **History:** The cross was a particularly hated symbol among the Jews for a number of reasons. The Jews most certainly did not do this, in large part because it was equated with hanging, something their law condemns. In **Gal. 3:13-14**, Paul is quoting from **Deuteronomy 21:22**.
- **Interjection:** Now while most would say this is a statement obviously alluding to Christ’s death later, realize that this is given to the disciples before any real exact details about His death and the nature of it have been revealed to them.
- **“and travel with me.”** This Greek word isn’t so much follow, as it is a progressive idea of “traveling alongside/being companion of.”
- **“worthy.”** This is the same Greek word from last week, “*axios*,” meaning, “acceptable, good, above the bar.” This is something we will never fully achieve, but something we are convicted to strive for.
- This death is a cursed death. Just as cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree, these Jewish people will be effectively being a curse to the Law if they are crucified.
 - We know inevitably Jesus Himself will be the greatest symbol of that curse on our behalf.
 - **Note:** This does not mean to carry Jesus’ cross as your own, but your individual cross, which may differ!
- As always, while it may not involve torment and death, our crosses must be characterized with self-sacrifice and self-denial for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION:

- Just as Jesus takes up a cross and dies for you, we are called to take up our smaller crosses and come after Him.
- This is not something we’re going to do perfectly. But it’s something we should be convicted to strive for.