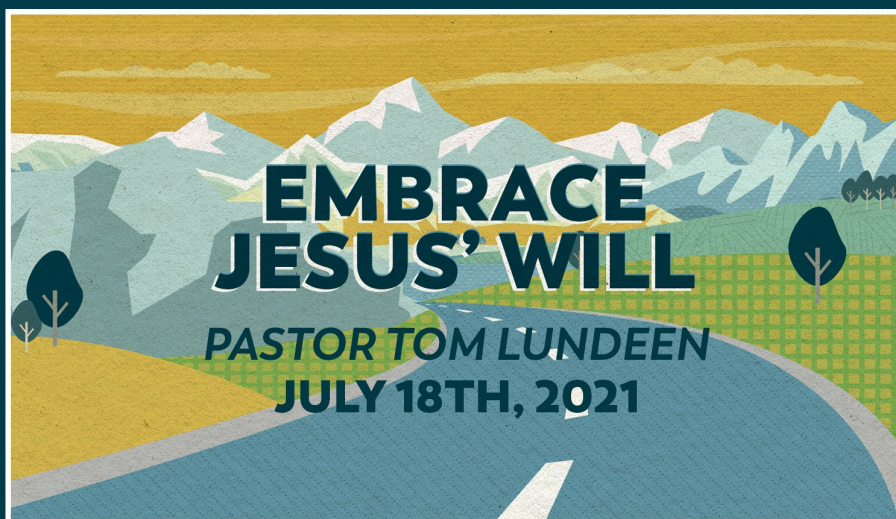
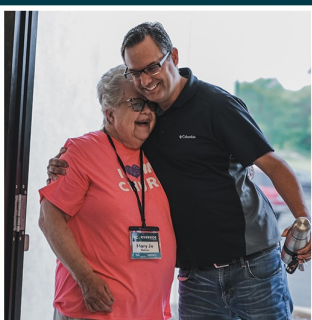




Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



"EMBRACE JESUS' WILL"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

...Jesus has told us that every human being (including _____) are all on a road trip, so to speak; but the road we choose to travel on will make all the difference in this life and eternity (note [Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

This is an incredible statement that would have _____ and flabbergasted Jesus' disciples 2,000 years ago.

Unfortunately in 2021, the idea of having to "bear a cross" in our lives is either something we don't have a _____ for so we don't understand it, or we've watered it down to such a degree that it's true meaning is lost on us.

1. What Cross-Bearing Is _____

This is my cross to bear has been an oft-used _____/figure of speech...

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

...it has come to be used in much different ways than Jesus meant, as this phrase has been _____, manipulated, and weakened.

While these and other things can certainly be hard things to experience and navigate in life, there is nothing distinctly _____ about them... (note [Matthew 5:45](#)).

2. What It Does Mean to Take Up _____

2,000 years ago in Roman-occupied Israel, a cross had no _____ meaning to anyone.

The context of Luke 9:23 shows us Jesus was _____ His disciples to His cross (note [Luke 9:18-22](#)).

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

Jesus was constantly telling His disciples that following Him wouldn't always be the _____, popular, or accepted thing in the opinions of others (note [Matthew 5:10-12](#); [John 15:18-21](#); [16:1-3, 33](#)).

This means total surrender, _____ abandonment, embracing God's will (note [Luke 22:41-44](#)).

Jesus is saying that following Him means that every day I _____ that I have died with Jesus and to myself, that I have died to my self-centered motives and desires, and live my life for Jesus every minute of every day even if there are _____ difficult things to experience...

Am I on the road less traveled?:

- Following Jesus is _____ when life is going well.
- Here are some important questions to seriously ponder:

Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means:

- ... _____ some close friends?
- ... some level of estrangement with some of your _____?
- ... some people will _____ your reputation?
- ... your _____ may suffer, or that you may even lose your job?
- ... _____ your life?

Jesus never said all these things and more will without a doubt happen to you. But to follow Jesus means I'm willing to embrace Jesus' will when it's hard, when it _____ me something...

But Jesus also wants you and me to know that the _____ far outweighs whatever loss/cost (note [Luke 9:24](#); [Matthew 19:27-29](#)).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text *riverside* to 94000*



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SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: Sail, wake, fishing or pontoon boat; if you're on the water, what kind of vessel do you want to be on/in? Now name that dream boat!

1. Last week, Pastor Tom invited us to daily seek God's will (not ours) as we ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives. If you responded to this invitation, what did you experience this past week?
2. Pastor Tom explained, "This is my cross to bear has been an oft-used idiom/figure of speech..." It's easy to think hard times are somehow our "cross to bear." How does [Matthew 5:45](#) help us understand challenging times?
3. Read [Matthew 5:10-12](#); [John 15:18-21](#); [16:1-3, 33](#). How do Jesus' warnings to his disciples impact your decision to follow Him?
4. Pastor Tom reminded us that, "Following Jesus is easy when life is going well." How have you experienced this?
5. Read through each of the important questions Pastor Tom asked us to seriously ponder at the end of the Message Notes. Answer them honestly with each other.
6. How do Jesus' promises in [Luke 9:24](#) and [Matthew 19:27-29](#) help you embrace Jesus' will when it costs you something?

Day One: [Matthew 6](#)

Day Two: [Genesis 6](#)

Day Three: [Roman 6](#)

Day Four: [2 Thessalonians 1](#)

Day Five: [Job 6](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

PERSONAL GUIDE



"EMBRACE JESUS' WILL"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

...Jesus has told us that every human being (including you and me) are all on a road trip, so to speak; but the road we choose to travel on will make all the difference in this life and eternity (note [Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

This is an incredible statement that would have stunned and flabbergasted Jesus' disciples 2,000 years ago.

Unfortunately in 2021, the idea of having to "bear a cross" in our lives is either something we don't have a context for so we don't understand it, or we've watered it down to such a degree that it's true meaning is lost on us.

1. What Cross-Bearing Is Not

This is my cross to bear has been an oft-used idiom/figure of speech...

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

...it has come to be used in much different ways than Jesus meant, as this phrase has been massaged, manipulated, and weakened.

While these and other things can certainly be hard things to experience and navigate in life, there is nothing distinctly Christian about them...(note [Matthew 5:45](#)).

2. What It Does Mean to Take Up Our Cross

2,000 years ago in Roman-occupied Israel, a cross had no symbolic meaning to anyone.

The context of Luke 9:23 shows us Jesus was pointing His disciples to His cross (note [Luke 9:18-22](#)).

Note [Luke 9:23](#)

Jesus was constantly telling His disciples that following Him wouldn't always be the easy, popular, or accepted thing in the opinions of others (note Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; 16:1-3, 33).

This means total surrender, complete abandonment, embracing God's will (note Luke 22:41-44).

Jesus is saying that following Him means that every day I affirm that I have died with Jesus and to myself, that I have died to my self-centered motives and desires, and live my life for Jesus every minute of every day even if there are temporary difficult things to experience...

Am I on the road less traveled?:

- Following Jesus is easy when life is going well.
- Here are some important questions to seriously ponder:

Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means:

- losing some close friends?
- some level of estrangement with some of your family?
- some people will discredit your reputation?
- your career may suffer, or that you may even lose your job?
- risking your life?

Jesus never said all these things and more will without a doubt happen to you. But to follow Jesus means I'm willing to embrace Jesus' will when it's hard, when it costs me something...

But Jesus also wants you and me to know that the reward far outweighs whatever loss/cost (note Luke 9:24; Matthew 19:27-29).

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