

WOULD YOU CARRY JESUS' CROSS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *"And when they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, and laid on him the cross, to bear it after Jesus."* v. 26.
- B. THE SETTING:
1. Jesus had been arrested, carried before the Jewish council. Then He was taken to Pilate, to get his permission to sentence Jesus to death.
 2. Pilate, finding no fault with Him, and on hearing that He was from Galilee, sent Him to Herod.
 3. Herod attempted a trial, wanted to see a sign (a show, be entertained) this Jesus refused, so Herod sent Him back to Pilate.
 4. After several attempts to set Him free (Pilate had Jesus beaten) Pilate washed his hands of the matter and sentenced Jesus to be crucified.
 5. After a night of beatings and trials, Jesus was unable to carry His cross.
 6. Simon was compelled by the soldiers to bear the cross for Jesus.
- C. QUESTIONS FOR SIMON: (Cyrene, was in North Africa).
1. Why were you there? Were you a disciple? A Jew? A Gentile there on business.
 2. How did it feel to bear the cross of an innocent one to his death?
 3. Were you glad, willing to carry Jesus' cross?
 4. Or did you resent being forced to this task.
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THE SOLDIERS

- A. WHY DIDN'T THE SOLDIERS CARRY THE CROSS?
1. Not their concern.
 2. They were not interested in helping Jesus in any way. Their job was to put him to death, not to promote or help Him.
 3. They were in charge and could use their authority to force others.
- B. WHY SHOULD WE EXPECT THE WORLD TO CARE TODAY?
1. If the cross of Jesus is going to be lifted up for the world to see.
 2. Then His disciples are going to have to do it.
 3. (Dear Abby article on divorce or obeying God)
 4. The message and principles of Christ are not going to be held up by the world.
 5. The world will not, cannot stand up for Christian Principles
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CROSS REPRESENTS

- A. TO JESUS:
 - 1. Suffering.
 - 2. Death.
 - 3. "Joy" (Heb. 12:2).
 - B. TO GOD:
 - 1. The Death Of His Son.....
 - 2. The Depth Of His Love (John 3:16).
 - C. TO THE JEWS:
 - 1. Victory; After 3 years they finally get rid of Him.
 - 2. Vengeance...For all their troubles.
 - D. TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF JESUS:
 - 1. Heartbreak - Sadness.
 - 2. Shattered Hope. – Road to Emmas (Luke 23).
 - E. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?>
 - 1. Your list.
 - 2. **Will you carry the Cross of Jesus?**
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CONCLUSION

- A. HOW DO WE CARRY THE CROSS OF JESUS TODAY?
 - 1. We see people carrying a literal cross, down the hi-way - usually on wheels.
 - a. Their message.
 - b. What they hope to convey to the people.
 - 2. People wear one around their neck...
 - a. On their wrist.
 - b. Hanging from their ear.
 - 3. Not at all making light of this, just asking is this what it means today to carry the cross of Jesus?
 - B. WE CARRY THE CROSS OF JESUS TODAY WHEN:
 - 1. We fulfill the Great Commission.
 - 2. We are light of the world.
 - 3. When we are the salt of the earth.
 - 4. To **BEAR THE CROSS** is to "**stand up for**" to represent Christ to the world. **Would You Carry The Cross Of Jesus Today?**
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C. We Are Not Asked To Carry Jesus' Cross Today.....BUT

D. *"Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."* (Lk. 14:27).

E. *"And he said unto all. If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (Lk. 9:23).
