



LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

*“And He said to all, If anyone
would come after Me, let
him deny himself and take
up his cross daily and follow
Me”*

Luke 9:23

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Where does the Joy fit in this verse?

- Jesus wants us to be with Him
- The cost of following Jesus brings us grace, freedom, and joy
- The end result is the salvation of our souls



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*“And He said to **all**”*

All means everyone listening to Him



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If

- A conditional clause
- The principle of “If this, then that”



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“anyone”

- means each and every person, not everyone

Jew or Gentile

Man or woman

Young or old

Rich or poor

Learned or unschooled



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“would”

- the past tense of “will”
- a decision-making word



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“come”

to move towards something or someone, to approach



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“after”

How often do we get ahead of Jesus, knowing exactly what we want to do and where we should go and then expect Jesus to help us out?



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“Me”

- Jesus
- Not anyone else



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“let him”

to allow, implying there should be no obstacle in the way



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“deny himself”

“arneoma” which means “refuse to follow”.



Millie says “Myself!!”



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Nelson Rockefeller



Just a little bit more”

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***“Take up
his cross”***



Dying to self
Living for Christ
Suffering and humiliation



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I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—alive, holy, and pleasing to God—which is your reasonable service. Rom 12:1



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“When Christ bids a man to follow him,
he bids that man to come and die.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



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How do we do this?

1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.



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“And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” Matt 10:38

“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27



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“daily”

- Every single day of your life.
- When you wake up til you go to bed.



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“And follow Me.”

Jesus





the child will be called
holy – the son of God

- Mary and Gabriel

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The mother
of my Lord

Elizabeth and Mary

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a baby was born in the
city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.

Angels brings news of
Great Joy

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Simeon and Anna

my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared
in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation
to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

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*“You are my
Beloved Son;
With You, I am
well pleased.”*



Baptism
Of
Jesus

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“Today this Scripture
has been fulfilled in
your hearing.”

Jesus in the temple

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The demons obey Jesus

demons called Him the
Holy One of God, Son of
God, the Christ, the Son
of the Most High God

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Jesus calms the storm with
His word.

Lord of creation

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“This is my Son, my Chosen One; Listen to Him”



The transfiguration

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And He said to everyone, If each and every person listening would make a decision to move towards Me, not before or ahead of Me, then, allow her, removing all obstacles in the way, renouncing personal desires, comforts, and ambitions, to put into practice daily, an others-focused lifestyle involving self-denial, surrendering her personal ambitions and desires for God's will in her life, accepting the difficulties, hardships, and sacrifices, even being willing to sacrifice her very life for Christ's sake. And follow Me. (KJKV)



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.” Jesus tells us, I know what is best for you. Follow Me because I want you to be with me, and I want to be with you. You will find the life I have planned for you and nothing could be better. To take up your cross is to be rescued from the emptiest and most unfilled life one could live and it is an invitation to unlock the best ever!”

Bill Tell



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*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Heb 12:1-2



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*...for you received the word in much affliction, with the **joy** of the Holy Spirit, 1 Thess 1:6*

*Count it all **joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-5*

*Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with **joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Pet 1:8-9*



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Where is the joy?

- Jesus wants us to be with Him
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Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

