



LESSONS FROM THE CROSS

Texts: – 1Pet.2: 21-24; Matt.16: 24-26

1. The Cross is a Symbol of Submission:

To submit is to concede, give in, succumb, surrender or yield.

Jesus submitted and surrendered Himself totally to God on the cross despite the pain, shame and suffering

Jesus went to the cross to teach us the meaning and importance of submission – that the ultimate goal of our faith, obedience and spiritual service is total submission and yielded-ness to God.

Jesus went to the cross to show us how not to always insist on our own will but to submit our will to God.

Jesus went to the cross to prove to us that the best way to live is to submit our will to God

Jesus went to the cross to demonstrate to us that submission is not easy but costly and painful

Jesus went to the cross to show us that our submission to God glorifies and honors Him

Jesus went to the cross to prove to us that submission pays eventually.

2. The Cross is a Symbol of Sacrifice & Self-denial:

Self-denial is self-sacrifice and to be unselfish. To sacrifice is to forfeit, forgo, give up, let go, lose, relinquish, renounce or surrender something.

Jesus denied and offered Himself as sacrifice for our sin on the cross.

Jesus denied and sacrificed Himself to confirm scriptures that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

Jesus went to the cross to show us practically what sacrifice and self-denial mean.

Jesus went to the cross as a practical demonstration of His teachings that sacrifice and self-denial are essential parts of our faith and relationship with God.

Jesus went to the cross as a Model and Example of sacrifice and self-denial.

Jesus denied and sacrificed on the cross to help us overcome fear and be encouraged to follow His example if need be.

Jesus denied and sacrificed Himself on the cross to show us that sacrifice and self-denial are rewarding in the end.

3. The Cross is a Symbol of Pain & Shame:

Pain is hurt, discomfort, distress, agony or anguish, while shame is disgrace, dishonor or humiliation.

There are physical and psychological pains and shame

Crucifixion is a very painful and shameful way to die physically and psychologically

Jesus endured great pain and shame on the cross at Calvary

Jesus bore the pain and shame of the cross to show how much He loves us

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to show us that sometimes, they could be part of our faith

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to show us that certain pain and shame are necessary pathways to victory and glory

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to show that bearing pain and shame for God or our faith is no pain or shame at all.

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to teach us how to endure them

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to teach us that bearing pain and shame for righteousness sake is always rewarding in the end. No pain; no gain.

Jesus bore pain and shame on the cross to encourage us to follow His steps and example

4. The Cross is a Symbol of Suffering:

To suffer is to feel and endure pain or punishment

Jesus suffered to show us that suffering is inevitable in spiritual service and discipleship

Jesus suffered to show us that not all sufferings are bad after all.

Jesus suffered to show us that certain sufferings bring good results in the end.

Jesus suffered to show us how to suffer for good cause and not for bad ones as children of God

Jesus suffered to encourage us to face suffering confidently and with courage.

Jesus suffered to serve as our Model and Good Example that if He could do it then, we can do it also

Jesus suffered to prove to us that suffering for a good and godly cause is rewarding in the end.

5. The Cross is a Symbol of Death:

To die is to breath the last breathe and give up the ghost.

Jesus died that He might prove to us the reality of death and that death is no respecter of persons, age or sex after all.

For us as Christians, there are two sides to life - temporal and permanent or eternal life, earthly or heavenly life. Death is the middle point between the two lives – earthly and heavenly, temporal or eternal lives. Jesus died that He might show that for us as Christians, death is only a passage to glory.

Jesus died that He might help us overcome the fear of death and demonstrate to us that death is not so fearful or tormenting or bad after all as we have always thought. Death is only fearful, tormenting and bad when it serves as passage to hell.

Jesus died so He might show us how to face death without fear.

Jesus died that He might teach us how to trust God and hope in Him even in death.

6. The Cross is a Symbol of Life and Hope:

Hope is what you look forward to. It is your expectation, future and hereafter.

Jesus rose from death to demonstrate the power of God to us that He can do all things

Jesus rose from death to fulfill scriptures and God's promise

Jesus rose from death to prove that He is truly the Son of God

Jesus rose from death to show us that reality and certainty of life after death

Jesus rose from death to prove to us that it does not all end here on earth after all as some think.

Jesus rose from death to give us hope after our earthly life is over. Our hope is in heaven, beyond this earthly, terrestrial and temporal world.

Jesus rose from death that He might give us a glimpse of the glory that lies ahead of those who believe in Him

Jesus rose from death to demonstrate that He is our Resurrection, Life and Hope as children of God

7. Conclusion: Every disciple or follower of Jesus must then carry his cross boldly and gladly and follow Him. Will you?

I. We must be submissive

II. We must sacrifice and deny self

III. We must be willing and ready to bear pain and shame for righteousness sake

IV. We must be willing and ready to suffer for our faith.

V. We must be willing and ready to die for our faith if need be.

VI. We must keep hope alive. We must keep eternity in focus and think and see beyond this temporal world.

VII. We must follow in Christ's footsteps.