

## Evidence of Sacrifice

Sunday Morning, February 16, 2014

### Thesis:

Carrying Our Cross for Christ is Evidence of Our Forsaking All For Him.

### Introduction:

During his reign, King Frederick William III of Prussia found himself in trouble. Wars had been costly, and in trying to build the nation, he was seriously short of finances. He couldn't disappoint his people, and to capitulate to the enemy was unthinkable. After careful reflection, he decided to ask the women of Prussia to bring their jewelry of gold and silver to be melted down for their country. For each ornament received, he determined to exchange a decoration of bronze or iron as a symbol of his gratitude. Each decoration would be inscribed, "I gave gold for iron, 1813." The response was overwhelming. Even more important, these women prized their gifts from the king more highly than their former jewelry. The reason, of course, is clear. The decorations were proof that they had sacrificed for their king. Indeed, it became unfashionable to wear jewelry, and thus was established the Order of the Iron Cross. Members wore no ornaments except a cross of iron for all to see. When Christians come to their King, they too exchange the flourishes of their former life for a cross.

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### I. Carry Your Cross Out of Love (Luke 9: 23 – 26)

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

In the Middle East and various places in Africa, Many Christians are currently losing their families, possessions and life for Christ.

**Real Life Example:** Jummai Nglari, 35, was worshiping at her church in Waga Chakawa village, Adamawa state, on Sunday, Jan. 26, when members of Boko Haram attacked. The militants locked the church building, set off bombs and began shooting people and cutting their throats as they tried to escape through windows. With her 7-month-old daughter bundled on her back, Jummai ran to grab her 4-year-old son. As she ran, she was shot in the hand and fell to the ground. She quickly got up and tried to carry the children out of the church, but she was shot again in her right leg. She fell on top of her children and remained still so attackers would think she was dead. Her 7-month-old was also shot in the hand during the attack, and the baby's hand had to be amputated. The Islamic militant group killed 47 people in Waga Chakawa that day, some in the church and others in their homes. Later that same day, members of Boko Haram killed 52 more people in an attack in Borno state. VOM contacts in Nigeria reported that as many as 200 Christians have been killed by Boko Haram since the Jan. 26 attacks.

## II. Will You Sacrifice Your “Love” to Follow Christ? (Luke 9: 57 – 62)

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”  
58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”  
59 Then He said to another, “Follow Me.”  
But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”  
60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”  
61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”  
62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**Vs. 57 & 58 -**

What are you willing to leave behind?  
Comforts of home?  
Are you willing to live Christ's Lifestyle?  
Do you have unlimited committment or are you limited like this first man?

**Vs. 59 & 60 -**

Do you make excuses?  
Do you delay your committment to Christ to follow?  
Is there always something else you need to get done first like this second man?

**Vs. 61 & 62 -**

Do you have "qualified" or "important" or "justified" committments that you place before Christ as this third man?  
Ones that are good committments such as caring for family, that are always a higher priority in your life than what Christ is asking of you? All of our important priorities, such as family needs, will be taken care of or fall in to place when we put Christ first.

**Our Hearts Will Never Be Passionate For Christ,  
If We Don't Give All of Ourselves to Him!**

## III. What Evidence Reveals Your Passion To Follow Christ?

**(I Kings 19: 19 – 21)**

19 So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.  
20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”  
21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate.  
Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Elisha Was Passionate About Giving Up Who He Was to Follow God

### Conclusion:

Carrying Our Cross For Christ  
Is Evidence of Our Forsaking All For Him

What Evidence in Your Life  
Reveals Your Passion to  
Follow Christ?