

Finishing Well, Part 4

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 9:23.

B. We must take up our cross daily to follow Jesus.

II. What it means to take up the cross.

A. It means a spirit of forgiveness. (Luke 23:34; Genesis 45:28; 50:20; Exodus 15:22-27)

B. It means a spirit of acceptance. (Luke 23:43)

C. It means separation from loved ones. (John 19:26-27)

D. It means loneliness. (Matthew 27:46-47)

E. It means dryness and emptiness. (John 19:28, Deuteronomy 8:2, Isaiah 53, II Corinthians 5)

F. It means victory. (John 19:30; 4:34; Revelation 4:5)

G. It means surrender. (Luke 23:46)

III. What it means to take up the cross daily.

Application questions:

1. Why is taking up the cross so difficult? Which part of it do you find most challenging?

2. What does it look like to surrender yourself to God? Explain.

3. Why is taking the cross up so important in the Christian life?
