

**What did Jesus mean when He said, “Take up your cross and follow Me?”**

**(Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)**

Let's begin with what Jesus didn't mean. Many people interpret “cross” as some burden they must carry in their lives: a strained relationship, a thankless job, a physical illness. With self-pitying pride, they say, “That's my cross I have to carry.” Such an interpretation is not what Jesus meant when He said, “Take up your cross and follow Me.”

When Jesus carried His cross up Golgotha to be crucified, no one was thinking of the cross as symbolic of a burden to carry. To a person in the first-century, the cross meant one thing and one thing only: death by the most painful and humiliating means human beings could develop

Therefore, “**Take up your cross and follow Me**” means being willing to die in order to follow Jesus. This is called “dying to self.” It's a call to absolute surrender. After each time Jesus commanded cross bearing, He said, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” (Luke 9:24-25). Although the call is tough, the reward is matchless.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers (John 16:33). Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

In Luke 9:57-62, three people seemed willing to follow Jesus. When Jesus questioned them further, their commitment was half-hearted at best. They failed to count the cost of following Him. None was willing to take up his cross and crucify their own interests.

Commitment to Christ means taking up your cross daily, giving up your hopes, dreams, possessions, even your very life if need be for the cause of Christ. Only if you willingly take up your cross may you be called His disciple (Luke 14:27). The reward is worth the price. Jesus followed His call of death to self (“Take up your cross and follow Me”) with the gift of life in Christ: “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it” (Matthew 16:25-26). [GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

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# Welcome to First Baptist Brookline!

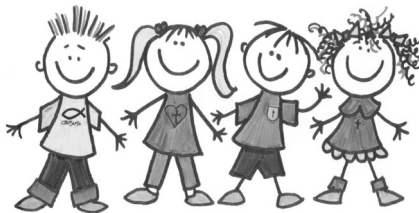
February 4, 2018

## TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

**Choir Practice Today 4:45 PM**

**Deacon Meeting 5 PM**

**Evening Worship Tonight 6 PM**



Lauryn Mullings, our new Children's Activity Director, would like to meet for a few minutes after church today in the Family Life Center. If you are involved in any of our Children's Ministries, please plan to attend.

This includes Sunday School teachers, Children's Church workers, or any position you may have working with our children.

**Grief Share Support Group  
meets Wednesday, 2 PM**

## **Our Report...**

### January 28

Offering	\$5,729
Manna Ministry	\$ 30
Grand Oak	\$ 76

### Attendance

Sunday School	79
Morning Worship	113

## **Upcoming Concerts in 2018!**

New Horizon's Concert  
March 4, 6 PM

For Calvary/Dave Taylor's Group  
April 29, 6 PM

Joseph Habedank & Erwins Concert  
June 10, 6 PM

The Lore Family  
August 5, 6 PM

Jones Family Singers  
September 9, 6 PM

Brian Free & Assurance  
October 19, 7 PM

## Future Activities

Grief Share Meeting February 7, 2 PM

AWANA February 7, 6:25 PM PCC—Diapers/Baby Wipes

Trustee Meeting February 11, 5:30 PM

Keith Coons Speaking February 11, 6 PM

Baptist Women Meet February 13, 10 AM

Ron Melton Speaking February 14, 7 PM

Personnel Meeting February 18, 5:30 PM

Sonshine Manor Nursing Home Ministry February 25, 1 PM

Finance Committee Meeting February 25, 5:30 PM



Miss this week's message?

## **You can also find...**

- The Sunday Bulletins you may have missed
- The Online Calendar to keep you informed

Go to our website at:

[www.fcbrookline.org/Media](http://www.fcbrookline.org/Media)

## **Install Our New Church App:**

- Go to your store (either Google Play or Apple's App Store) there is no charge
- Download the MYCHURCHAPP
- After downloading the app, you will see a screen that says "LETS FIND YOUR MINISTRY" Type in BROOKLINE in the top search bar. You will see our church. Tap it and "LOAD APP".

## **Tithes & Offerings...**

If you would like to tithe using your credit or debit card, that can be done safely and securely seven days a week. It is EXTREMELY easy: either click on the GIVE Online button on the church App or go to [fcbrookline.org](http://fcbrookline.org) and click on the GIVE ONLINE button. You may give your tithes and offerings or give to other ministries our church supports: Pregnancy Care Center, Gideons, Lottie Moon, etc.