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Matthew 16:24

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Desire

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Desire (*thélō*) means “to will, wish, desire, implying active volition and purpose”

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Note the requirements.

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Desire. Denial.

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Note the requirements.

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Desire. Denial. Daily action of denial. Follow Him.

Deny Himself

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Syn include “to speak against, contradict, to avoid, reject, nullify, to stand firm against, resist, oppose”

Matthew 26:33-35

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Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.” Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny (to refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) Me three times.” Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny (to refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) You!”
And so said all the disciples.

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Luke 12:8-9

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“Also I say to you, whoever confesses (*homologéō* – to confess publicly, to acknowledge openly, to profess) Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess (*homologéō* – to confess publicly, to acknowledge openly, to profess) before the angels of God. But he who denies (refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) Me before men will be denied (to refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) before the angels of God.”

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Be denied by Whom?

Matthew 10:27-28

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“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

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If so, do you have the fear of the Lord in you?

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How has that fear changed your life so far?

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“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore (the consequences of speaking what the Lord tells you to say); you are of more value than many sparrows.”

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But then it gets quite serious for those who do not
heed the Lord’s warning.

Matthew 10:32-33

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“Therefore whoever confesses Me (where) before men, him I will also confess (where) before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies (refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) Me (where) before men, him I will also deny (refuse, avoid, reject, resist, oppose) (where) before My Father who is in heaven.”

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Can you imagine being denied by Christ before the Father?

Fear and Excuses

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Or my spouse will reject me even to the point of separation or divorce.

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What is keeping us from being His followers?

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But Jesus knew what they were thinking,
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Look at what He said.

Matthew 10:34-36

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“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth.

I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’”

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This is a promise.

And what follows is the cost of following Jesus.

Matthew 10:37-39

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“He who loves father or mother more than Me is (what) not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is (what) not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is (what) not worthy of Me. (Therefore) He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life (why) for My sake will find it.”

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This is the grand paradox of our life in Christ.

What Does it Mean to Follow Christ?

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Are you a follower of Jesus according to Jesus’
own words?

What Does it Mean to Follow Christ?

Or are you a follower of Jesus according to
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What Does it Mean to Follow Christ?

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Have you truly counted the cost of being
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If so, everything begins at the beginning.

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Have you truly counted the cost of being one with Him?

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Do you want Him to be?

If so, everything begins at the beginning.

And it all begins with desire.

Desire

Desire

Do you desire to follow after Jesus?

Desire

Do you desire to follow after Jesus?

No matter what?

Desire

Do you desire to follow after Jesus?

No matter what?

Come what may?

Desire

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(MT) “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross (LK) daily, (MT) and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake (MK) and the gospel’s (MT) will find it.”

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let him deny himself, and take up his cross (LK) daily,
(MT) and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his
life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake
(MK) and the gospel’s (MT) will find it.”

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Then let’s tell Him so today.

