Matthew 16:24-25 *Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. [25] If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. (NLT)*

****"Shoulder your cross" or "take up your cross" are very strong words. What does it mean for us today?

Stuart Briscoe comments on these verses in this way: *"Our human tendency is to desire blessing without cost, solutions to problems without delay, and the fulfillment of desire without inconvenience. In our culture, desire has in many cases developed into 'rights', and when these 'rights' are not met, resentment sets in. ...In the Western world we are so blessed with a thousand ways of dulling our pain that we tend to see suffering as an unwarranted intrusion. Its elimination becomes our obsession."* (Brave Enough to Follow pg. 102)

PRAYER: Lord, please help me to see that my own comfort and pleasure should not be my goal and ambition in life. Help me to willingly follow You no matter what the cost or the inconvenience. Help me to seek Your honor and Glory rather than my own. Help me to enjoy You and the journey more that the end result.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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