

Worship Service September 2nd, 2018

*Worship Song	Together with Band	
Opening Prayer	Presider	
Bible Reading	Mark 8:31-38	Lyle Atonson
Prayer	Kurt Schwartz	
Announcement	Rosanna Bohari	
Communion	Together	
Offering Prayer.....	Presider	
Offering	Together	
Special Song	Choir	
Message	The Cost of Following JesusTimothy Hong	
Prayer of Blessing	Presider	

Today's Sermon Outline **The Cost of Following Jesus** Mark 8:31-38

Deny yourself

Jesus says that the first cost we must pay to be His disciples is to deny ourselves. What does the word “deny” mean? The self to which Jesus refers to here is not one’s personal identity as a distinct individual. But the self of which Jesus is speaking here is the natural, sinful, rebellious, unredeemed self. It is the “old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit” (Eph. 4:22). To deny one’s self is to have a sincere, genuine conviction that one has nothing in his person to commend before God, nothing worthwhile to offer God at all (Rom. 7:18).

Also, “deny” means to give up on selfish desire. It is to give up our own will which is against the will of God. Jesus is saying, “If you want to be my disciple, you must give up the idea that you are the owner of your life and let me be the owner of your life. Let me be the Lord of your life.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Our natural tendency is not self-denial, but self-centered assertion. So, self-denial does not come naturally. How can we go against our natural tendency of a self-centered mindset and deny ourselves in the crucial moment of decision-making? If we remember how Christ denied himself and let his self-denial come into our hearts we can deny ourselves (Galatians

5:24). Jesus denied Himself by surrendering His will to God’s will with this prayer: “*Father if you are willing, take this cup (suffering and death on the cross) from me; yet not my will, but yours be done*” (Luke 22:42). If we prayed as Jesus prayed and surrender our will to God’s will, we can deny ourselves.

Take up your cross

It means *sacrificing and suffering*

When Jesus said to the disciples, "Take up your cross" the cross wasn't a beloved symbol like it is today. It was big and ugly. It was a heavy, crude device of torture that conveyed a message of shame, suffering, and death. So, taking up your cross means living a life of sacrifice and suffering for Christ. It means that we serve Christ faithfully, even when we lose our own benefits and comforts, are humiliated, or are treated unfairly, and our pride is hurt. To take up the cross is to experience sacrifice or suffering every day. It consists of the continual practice of small sacrifices which may be distasteful to us.

It is *your* cross not other's

Each of us has a personal and particular cross. There is no one who can live a cross-free life. You may wonder why God gives you a cross which is heavier than the crosses of others. God has a uniquely blessed plan for you through your cross. As your life is different and unique from all other lives, so your cross is different and unique from the crosses of others. Do not compare your cross with other people’s crosses. Believe in God’s unique blessings through your cross. And take up *your* cross with a thankful heart.

Taking up your cross is *voluntary submission*

Jesus never forces a person to take up the cross against the person’s free will. It is a voluntary form of sacrificial obedience that identifies us completely with Jesus. Then, how can we take up the cross voluntarily? By believing that the cross is the sure way of final victory, and to participate in the glory of Jesus’ resurrection (Romans 8:18; I Corinthians 1:18). If you believe this truth, you also can take up your cross voluntarily and courageously to make your place in history.

Applications

1. What does Jesus mean by “deny yourself?” And how can you deny yourself as Jesus means?
2. How can you take up your cross?
 - a). In terms of “*sacrificing and suffering for Christ*”?
 - b). In terms of “*your*” cross?
 - c). In terms of taking up the cross by “*voluntary submission*”?

Announcements

Welcome New Comers and Visitors

We welcome all new comers and visitors to our worship service today. Please join us for our lunch fellowship which will be held in the fellowship hall right after the service.

Lunch Preparation

This week – American and College Group **Next week** – Spanish Group

*Today's fellowship cleaning turn is Asian group 1 (Lyle Atonson), Please clean kitchen too.

Prayer Requests

1. For healing – Jasmine Luna got her ankle fractured will have surgery this week.
2. For ESF International Mission Conference (October 11-13, 2018).
 - a). All missionaries will be able to get U.S. entry visa
 - b). Enough funds may be raised (Total Goal \$30,000. So far \$ 20,780.13 have been raised)
 - c). All speakers may prepare to preach and teach the words filled with the Spirit.

Groups for Fellowship Hall Cleaning on Sundays (August-September/2018)

Date	Group	Leader
August 26	African, American group	John Ayetty
Sep 2	Asian group 1 (Filipino)	Lyle Atonson
Sep 9	College and Youth Group	Moses Sanchez
Sep 16	Spanish Group	Analís Gomez Garcia
Sep 25	Asian group 2 (Pakistan & Korean)	Haroon Wilson

Ushers of the Month

Offering Ushers	GiGi Alberto, Jasmine Luna, Blanka Guerra, Lyle Atonson
Welcome Ushers	Priscilla Caronongan, Analís Garcia, Patricia Grass

Last Week's Offering

Tithe	Erlyn Balano//Rene & Lynn Corachea//Romulo & Isabel Espinoza//Mary & Michael Hong//Samuel Lebbie//Alex & Analís Lucas Garcia//Lina & Ender Carvajal Kamila Morillo//Verjun Sandra San Jose// Robert Bob Stewarts//Cornelia Felicinano//Eloisa Florez
Lord's Day	John & Branda Ayetty//Eryn Corachea//Rose & Nestor Dumlao//Timothy Hong//Alex & Analís Lucas Garcia//Andrea Martin//Reyna Rosales//Maria Marta Velasque//Armando & Angela Rayo//Melinda Horn//Guirnalda Gall
Thanksgiving	John & Branda Ayetty//Alexandria Gyorgy//Timothy Hong//Lydia Hong//Tony Kiskinov
Mission	Romulo & Isabel Espinoza//Timothy Hong//Carlos Lopez//Robert Bob Stewarts

Weekly Bible Reading Chart

Day/date	Old Testament	Check	New Testament	Check
Mon 9-3-18	Proverbs 19-20		2 Corinthians 7	
Tue 9-4-18	Proverbs 21-22		2 Corinthians 8:1-15	
Wed 9-5-18	Proverbs 23-24		2 Corinthians 8:16-24	
Thu 9-6-18	Proverbs 25-27		2 Corinthians 9:1-5	
Fri 9-7-18	Proverbs 28-29		2 Corinthians 9:6-15	
Sat 9-8-18	Proverbs 30-31		2 Corinthians 10:1-15	
Sun 9-9-18	Ecclesiastes 1-3		2 Corinthians 10:16-33	

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Worship Services:

Sunday Main Service 11:30 AM

Prayer Services

Sundays 9:30 AM - Room 106

Bible Study

Shepherd Group – Wednesday 8:00 PM
Saturday 10:30 AM

Cell Groups

Monday- Friday according to arrangement of each cell

College Student Ministry

Bible study – Church, Sunday 1:30 PM

Youth Ministry

Sunday – 1:30 PM

Children's Ministry

Sunday school- Sunday 11:30 AM

ESF Band Practice

Sunday 9:30 AM & 1:30 PM

Missionaries

Eva Sanchez – Campus ministry in Peru
Miguelina Martinez- Campus ministry in Dominican Republic
Suri Kumar – Campus ministry and Hindu ministry in India
Jordan Custorio – Campus ministry in the Philippines
Richard Shaffer – Campus ministry in USA
Paul Uzoma – Campus ministry in Benin, Africa
Rahab Lee – Campus ministry in Asia
Jung H. Suh – Campus ministry in Iowa, USA
Angelito Garcia – Campus ministry in Ukraine

Ministers and Staff

Senior Pastor – Timothy Hong (773-802-1112)

Administration & College Group – Samuel Lebbie (312-951-3552)

Assistant Preaching Pastor – Kurt Schwartz (224-522-9098)