

July 5, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Sparking The Flames Of Revival
Episode 6: Swords & Crosses.
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Matthew 10:32-39

³² *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.³⁴ “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, **but a sword.** ³⁵ For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”³⁷ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ Whoever does not **take up their cross** and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*

#LIFERISK: It is impossible to be a **follower** of Christ without a dedication to life risk.

- **Life risk does not mean foolish expeditions into unwise pursuits.**
 - **Ecclesiastes 8:5** *Whoever obeys his (the kings) command will come to no harm, and the **wise heart** will know the proper time and procedure. ⁶ For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter.*

Jesus Offers Swords, Crosses and the Adventure of a Lifetime.

SWORDS: Vs. 34 *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, **but a sword.**”*

- Let us not **confuse** the sword of sanctification and separation with the sword of war.

CROSSES: Vs. 38-39 *Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*

The Context Of Crosses

People in Galilee knew well what a cross was. When the Roman general, Varus, had broken the revolt of Judas of Galilee, he crucified two thousand Jews, and placed the crosses by the wayside along the roads to Galilee. In the ancient days the criminal did actually carry the crossbeam of his cross to the place of crucifixion, and the men to whom Jesus spoke had seen people staggering under the weight of their crosses and dying in agony upon them.

The Christian may have to sacrifice his personal ambitions, the ease and the comfort that he might have enjoyed, the career that he might have achieved; he may have to lay aside his dreams, to realize that shining things of which he has caught a glimpse are not for him. He will certainly have to sacrifice his will, for no Christian can ever again do what he likes; he must do what Christ likes. In Christianity there is always some cross, for it is the religion of the Cross.

Christ offers the adventure of a lifetime: He offers adventure. He told them that the man who found his life would lose it; and the man who lost his life would find it.

- **Finding life: Vs. 39** *Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.*

Questions for the journey: Use these questions to go deeper in personal reflection or in one of our LJCF small group discussions.

1. Pastor Adam said that Jesus is calling people into Life Risk. Where has Jesus invited you into taking risk?
2. In this passage, is Jesus: 1. calling his followers to take up the sword or 2. saying that he wields the sword while calling us to follow him to death? What would be the two possible outcomes of these interpretations?
3. What does it mean (to you) to personally to take up your cross?
4. Vs. 39 speaks of "losing your life" for his sake. What could that mean?
5. Vs. 39 also speaks of "finding your life". Give some examples of what it would look like to *find your life* on a daily and regular basis?