

Jesus calls leaders not to comfort, but to a cross

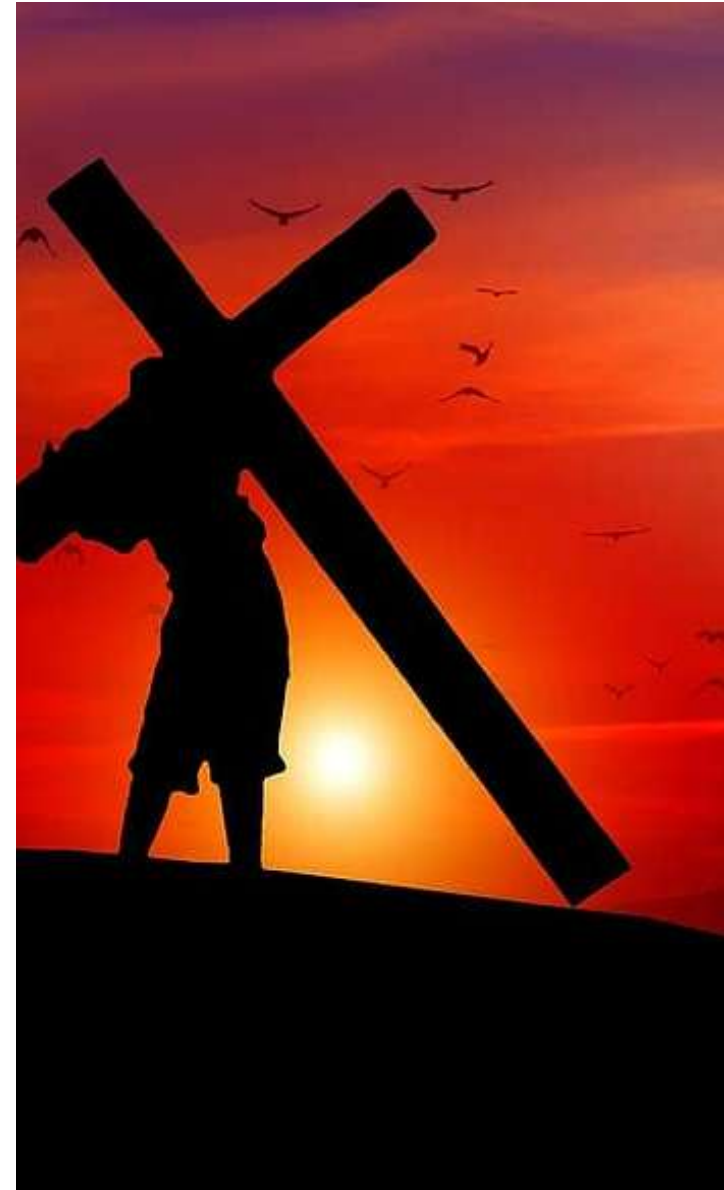
“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24 – 25)

The challenge is for young men and women to respond to the call of the cross of Christ.

Parents, will you prepare them to face the onslaught of evil and be arrows pointed at Satan (Psalm 127).

Agenda

- A Life Transformed
- Bold Leadership
Anchored in Truth
- The Cost of
Discipleship: Suffering
in Christ
- Servant – Hearted
Legacy



Leadership Principles

- Following Christ Into Suffering



In memory of
Charlie Kirk



*Human rights do
not stop because of
the location or size
of an individual.*

Charlie Kirk

A Life Transformed

- “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1 – 2)



Bold Leadership Anchored in Truth

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23).

“Now, Lord, consider their threats ... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness” (Acts 4:29).

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; act like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Ready Resources

Mind Your Faith –
Doy Moyer

Apologetics Press

Surviving Religion
101 - Michael
Kruger UNC – Bart
Ehrman

Man of Galilee –
Atticus G. Haygood
– I Believe Because
- Baxter

Josh McDowell:
Evidence that
Demands a Verdict.

The Case for Christ
– Strobel

Cold Case
Christianity – J.
Warner Wallace

The Reason for God
– Timothy Keller

Career Choices

Preaching is a noble ministry. So is:

Plumbing, HVAC, Engineering,
Medical Professionals,

Programmers, Cyber Security,
Business and Community Service.

Stay at home moms who nurture
the next generation.

The Cost of Discipleship: Suffering for Christ

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering... but rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ” (1 Peter 4:12–13).

“Our scars prove we have a past. Christ scars prove we have a future... if”

“If we share in his sufferings, we will also share in his glory” (Romans 8:17).

Servant – Hearted Legacy

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



Success

“For those who know me best to love and respect me most.”

“The chief cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what we want most for what we want at the moment.”

Take Away for Me and Marion Street

What risks—social, professional, emotional—might you face by standing for Jesus?

Step Out in Faith: Move from comfortable discourse into the places of influence God calls you—campuses, workplaces, and city center.

Embrace Suffering: When opposition comes, remember Jesus sacrificed all for you. Rejoice that you “participate in the sufferings of Christ” (1 Peter 4:13).

Invest in Others: Mentor someone younger in faith; equip them for bold witness.

Christ Centered Living

Jesus' pattern of humility, courage, and suffering remains the blueprint for every leader in His kingdom.

Brave men and women lived and died declaring the supremacy of Christ—let their life and martyrdom ignite in us a willingness to pick up our cross daily, speak truth with love, and lay down our lives for the sake of the Gospel.