

WHEN FOLLOWING JESUS *is Not Easy*

For some, following Jesus is hard, and for others, it is really intensely, almost impossibly, hard. Not all of us face the difficulties of our brothers and sisters around the world with daily persecution. That doesn't mean, though, that following Jesus is easy for the rest of us.



Following Jesus *is not easy*

IN FACT, ALL WHO WANT TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED. —2 TIMOTHY 3:12

If you actually want to follow Jesus and do the things He did, you are going to face pushback. It's a Scriptural guarantee—following Jesus is not easy.

“THEN HE CALLED THE CROWD TO HIM ALONG WITH HIS DISCIPLES AND SAID: ‘WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.’” —MARK 8:34

If you actually want to follow Jesus, He says that you need to die to yourself (take up your cross) and follow Him. Jesus made it His priority to go to some of the worst places the ancient world had to offer. Those are the places He wants us to follow Him to.

“FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE FOR ME AND FOR THE GOSPEL WILL SAVE IT.” —MARK 8:35

He is talking about the daily process of taking up our cross (dying to self). Let me tell you, dying for Jesus may seem hard, but that's a price you only have to pay one time.

Salvation is *free*

Salvation is a free gift from God apart from works of the law. We are not talking about salvation here. We are talking about what it means to follow Jesus.

Some may argue that you can't separate these. I would say you have to get them in the right order. FIRST you are saved by grace, then Jesus says, if you want to follow me, it's going to cost you everything.

The Bible is clear. Following Jesus comes at a cost. It is one of the worst lies of modern Christianity that following Jesus is easy. Following Jesus is not easy. It's incredible, life-giving, and so much more!



What Following Jesus Really Looks Like

- Loving the unlovable
- Forgiving those who don't deserve it
- Serving your enemies
- Living out real generosity
- Working hard even when you don't get paid enough
- Meeting the real needs of those around you
- Earnestly seeking after the Lord by spending time with him
- Fleeing from youthful lusts
- Abandoning sin and making war against the sin in your life
- Sharing the Gospel with others even if it is uncomfortable
- Radically loving your kids
- Sacrificially loving your spouse even if they don't love you back
- Finding joy in trials
- And so much more...

FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT EASY, BUT

Jesus is certainly worthy of it!



If you want to take a next step in your walk with Jesus, check out our video series **Multiplying Movements** on the Forge App

You may also enjoy reading the book **Mudrunner**, which is full of stories of believers who have put their lives on the line for the sake of the Good News.