Key Passage:

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9:20-24

34 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. 35 For whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? **Mark 8:34-36**

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up

their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find **Matthew16: 24-25**

Key observations:

"My Disciple"- Referring to whoever wants to follow him spiritually in their daily walk

"Take up their cross and follow me"- Go day by day studying God's word and being a reflection of who he is in your daily walk.

"Cross"- in biblical times the cross was considered a style of execution just like lethal injection is today. A symbol of someone losing their life.

"Loses their life"- following God's plan for ones life instead of their own plan for their life.

Summary:

1. Die to yourself Daily.

2. Gods plan for your life is not just an eternal prize, but is an earthly prize of peace and joy.

3. When you deny yourself and put others and God first, you live a life of selflessness, which results in blessing.

4. Losing your life doesn’t mean a physical death but means letting go of the worldly life and living a spiritual life.

5. Jesus says, “Whoever wants to be my disciple” which means anybody has the opportunity to follow God, there isn’t just a select few.

6. God calls us to be a disciple which means being a follower of Christ but a leader in this world.

7. The cross was a symbol of death in the biblical times and in order to live the life God has in store for us we must die to our old ways and follow his ways.