

# POWERLINES: Empowered to Follow

LUKE 9:23-27

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: Powerlines

## ***The High Price of Following Jesus is the Deal of a Lifetime.***

1. Be Motivated by the **Pattern** (23).

### ***Luke 9:23-27***

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

*<sup>24</sup>For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.*

2. Be Motivated by the **Paradox** (24).

*<sup>25</sup>For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?*

3. Be Motivated by the **Profit** (25).

*<sup>26</sup>For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.*

*<sup>27</sup>But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."*

(ESV).

4. Be Motivated by the **Promise** (24b, 26-27).

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Read 1 Peter 2:11 and Colossians 3:5-10.** What do these passages show us about the topic of self-denial? Did you understand what self-denial meant when you first became a Christian? How do you know self-denial today?
2. What does it mean to “save” or “lose” your life in verse 24? What form does “saving your life” take in your life? How can we endeavor to “lose our lives” for Christ?
3. Avoiding “shame” is a high priority for our society. We have crafted a shameless nation that will shame those who propose a distinctively Christian worldview. The irony is that the only intolerance is for those who stand with the Bible. How does verse 26 help us face the shame the world gives us for following Christ?

#### **Quote for the Week. . .**

by JI Packer



*“Jesus Christ demands self-denial, that is, self-negation (Matt. 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23), as a necessary condition of discipleship. Self-denial is a summons to submit to the authority of God as Father and of Jesus as Lord and to declare lifelong war on one’s instinctive egoism. What is to be negated is not personal self or one’s existence as a rational and responsible human being. Jesus does not plan to turn us into zombies, nor does he ask us to volunteer for a robot role. The required denial is of carnal self, the egocentric, self-deifying urge with which we were born and which dominates us so ruinously in our natural state. Jesus links self-denial with cross-bearing. Cross-bearing is far more than enduring this or that hardship. Carrying one’s cross in Jesus’ day, as we learn from the story of Jesus’ own crucifixion, was required of those whom society had condemned, whose rights were forfeit, and who were now being led out to their execution. The cross they carried was the instrument of death. Jesus represents discipleship as a matter of following him, and following him as based on taking up one’s cross in self-negation. Carnal self would never consent to cast us in such a role. “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die,” wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was right: Accepting death to everything that carnal self wants to possess is what Christ’s summons to self-denial was all about.”*