

FOLLOW JESUS

The Lord said, “If you believe in me, follow everything I have taught you. What I have taught you is to be kind instead of mean. This isn’t easy. You will find that some people do not like you because you are a good person, and because you are kind even to those who are not kind to you. I have also taught you to serve one another.

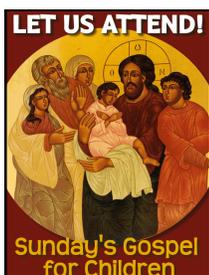
“You will find that it is difficult to do this because you must think about what others want, first. You must not be selfish. When you follow me, you will learn that it isn’t easy. It is like carrying the cross. But, whenever you are following me, I will be with you to help you. And one day you will be with me in heaven because you followed me.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus taught us that instead of being mean, we should be kind. What is one kind thing you have done?
2. Jesus taught us we must serve others. When a friend comes to play at our house, we can serve them by letting them make some choices about what to do. We can offer them our toys to play with. Is it easy to share?
3. When it is hard to do what Jesus wants us to, we can say a prayer, “Jesus, help me now.” Then we need to do the right thing.
4. Jesus said it would not always be easy to follow him. What did He say it is like?
5. Where did Jesus say He would be when we follow Him?



Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)



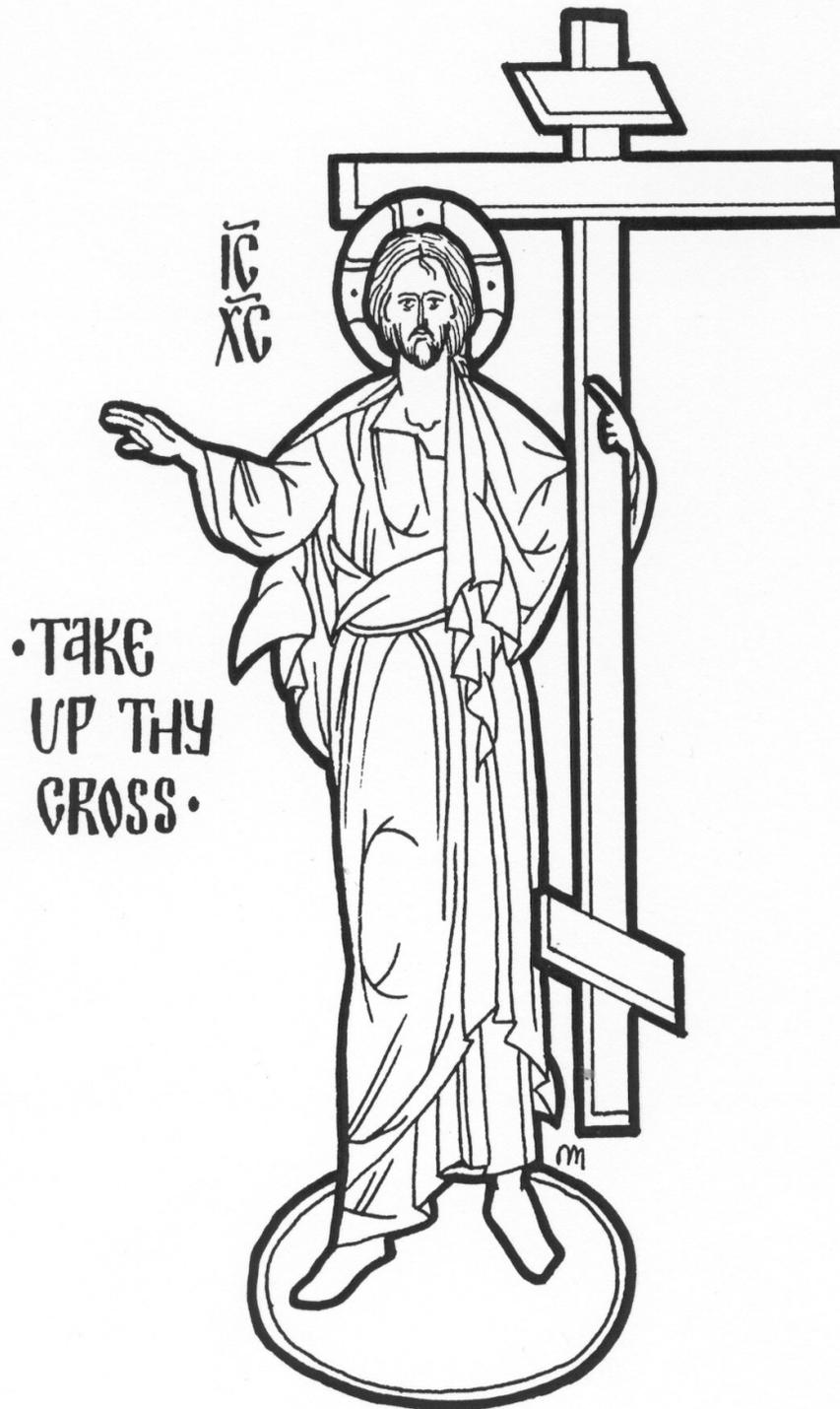
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Pre-12



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One day, our Lord Jesus taught his followers that whoever wants to follow Him should not just do whatever they want to do. Instead, they should do what God wants them to, even if it is very hard. He said that those who do things God's way will be saved.

He reminded His followers that, even if they got everything in the whole world, they would not have anything as important as their souls. He also reminded them not to be ashamed to follow Him. He said that when He comes again, He will be ashamed of anyone who was ashamed of Him while they lived on Earth.

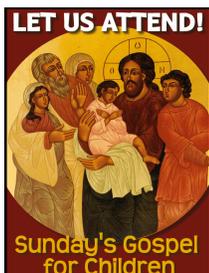
Then He promised that some of his followers would live to see God's Kingdom come with power!



Images courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Should Jesus' followers do whatever they want to? What should they do instead?
2. Doing things God's way can be hard. Jesus was doing things God's way when He died on the cross. Was that easy to do?
3. What will happen to those who do things God's way?
4. Ask your parents or godparents to tell you about a time when they did things God's way even though it was hard. Were they glad that they did?



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DENY YOURSELF

The Lord said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.

“For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

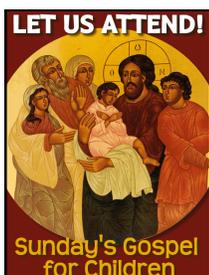
And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



photo by Timm Wenger

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does our Lord say we should do if we want to come after Him?
2. What does Jesus say will happen if we lose our lives for His sake and the Gospel’s sake? What do you think this means?
3. What does Jesus say is more important—the world or a person’s soul?
4. Who will the Son of Man be ashamed of when He comes in glory?
5. Have you ever been ashamed of Christ or of being a Christian? Remember this Gospel the next time you are tempted to be ashamed of our Lord or the Church!



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DENY YOURSELF

Characters: Narrator, Jesus

Narrator: The Lord said,

Jesus: If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

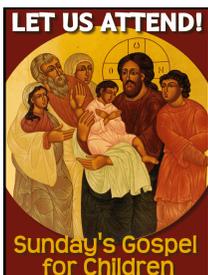
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Narrator: And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.



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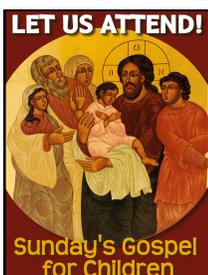
And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



photo by Timm Wenger

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Jesus say a person needs to do in order to gain life?
2. What did the Theotokos do for the sake of the gospel?
3. What do you think she lost so she could do that? Ask you mom and/or your godmother what she thinks Mary could have lost in order to become Jesus’ mom.
4. What do you think gained by giving up those things?
5. Do you think this sacrifice ended up giving her life? Why or why not?
6. Do you think she had to give up those things first? Why or why not?
7. What does this suggest about being a follower of Jesus?



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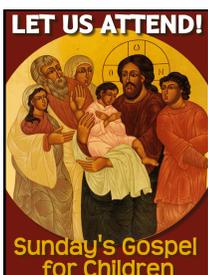
And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.”



photo by Timm Wenger

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does Jesus say will be the result “for those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel?”
2. What did your patron saint do for the sake of the gospel?
3. What do you think your patron saint had to give up so he or she could do that?
4. Do you think your patron saint gained anything by doing that? If so, what? If not, why do you say that?
5. Do you think a person has to give up something in order to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
6. What do you think of this idea? What bothers you about it? What do you like about it?



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