

# Matthew 10:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

## Analysis

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Jesus' requirement 'he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me' uses crucifixion imagery to depict total self-denial. Taking one's cross means accepting a death sentence—willingness to die to self-will, comfort, and safety. This precedes literal crucifixion language's common usage, showing Jesus clearly predicted the cross. Following after taking the cross shows discipleship is dying to self to live for Christ.

## Historical Context

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Crucifixion was Rome's most shameful, painful execution method for criminals and slaves. Jesus made this His discipleship metaphor before His own crucifixion, showing He knew His destiny. Condemned men carried their cross to execution—Jesus demands symbolic acceptance of this path.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does taking up your cross daily look like practically in your life?
2. What self-interests must die for you to follow Jesus fully?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ὃς οὐκ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ  
**And** **he** **not** **that taketh** G3588 **cross** G846 **And**  
G2532 G3739 G3756 G2983 G4716 G2532

ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου οὐκ ἔστιν μου ἄξιος  
**followeth** **after** **me** **not** **is** **me** **worthy**  
G190 G3694 G3450 G3756 G2076 G3450 G514

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 14:27** (Cross): And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

**Mark 8:34** (Cross): And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**Matthew 16:24** (Cross): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**John 19:17** (Cross): And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

**Mark 10:21** (Cross): Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.