



# THE CROSS and CROWN

*"No Cross, No Crown"*

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From the Beginning, God's call has been very simple: Walk faithfully with me. It's a simple call, but it's not always easy, is it? When Jesus is moving swiftly, up rugged terrain, we often find it hard to keep pace.

Picture Jesus, in a toga and sandaled feet, moving purposefully up the side of a rocky mountain – and us, weighed down with a backpack and, maybe, a couple of suitcases, struggling to keep up. It's hot. We're tired and sweaty. We keep falling farther and farther behind, and we realize that, if we lose any more distance, we'll lose sight of him completely.

And yet, we're not willing to let go of the things that we're carrying.



In last week's newsletter, we considered that walking with Jesus means going to the same place. This week, let's look at going at the same pace.

How much of the Christian walk is learning to let go of the things that slow us down spiritually? I get so frustrated when Christians – and when I, myself – fixate on whether or not something is sin, when the real question should be whether something is improving my walk with God or holding me back. When I'm falling behind Jesus on the trail, it's not a question of whether what I'm carrying in my backpack is good or evil. If it's holding me back from where Jesus is leading, the question only question is, "Am I going to hold on to it, or am I going to let it go and move forward with Jesus?"

Jesus urges us to take his yoke, which is easy, and his burden, which is light (Matthew 11:29,30) Have you considered that this means letting go of what you're currently yoked to? It should be an easy decision, except that we've grown accustomed to our yokes and enamored of our burdens. Let them go. There's more joy in walking with our God.

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."*

*At once they left their nets and followed him.*

*(Matthew 4:19,20)*

# Thanks for Praying!





We're walking through this mission field with your prayers as the wind at our backs! Please continue to agree with us for:

- God to prepare the soil as we get ready for fall and early winter outreach events,
- more of his Spirit, wisdom and direction,
- the next generation of leaders and team members,
- provision for the many challenges around us and ahead of us.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Thanks so much to those who have taken the time to keep in touch! It helps to know that you're out there with us!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at [crossandcrown.online/subscribe](https://crossandcrown.online/subscribe) !

## Did you know?

Camels' humps are made up almost entirely of fat. A hump can store up to eighty pounds of fat, which camels use to regulate their body temperature and to sustain them when food is scarce. Camels can go for twenty to thirty days without food, using the energy stored in the fat.

**Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4)**



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