

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me (Lk. 9:23; NAS).

I believe that the root of all sins is the sin of selfishness. The original condemnation of the devil was that he had selfish pride (1Tim. 3:6). We also make the same mistake, deciding that we must serve self before we serve anyone else, including God. We think we know what is best.

But the first part of being a disciple of Christ is that we must learn to deny self. You remember the old VBS song that talked of j-o-y. It was "Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last." Let me tell you something--that is not just a song for kids! Adults need to learn that lesson too.

Self can be so powerful that we don't even realize it is in control. Somehow we think we have "earned the right" to get our way. We think, "if it does not benefit me then it must be wrong." Doing a little extra, or paying a little more is just fine as long as there is something in it for me, but when we are asked to sacrifice for other's benefit--that's another story!

Serving self is fun and easy. We get wrapped up in our own little world and find it quite offensive if someone invades our comfort zone with thoughts of having to give, and/or sacrifice. And we don't generally part with our money unless we get something in return.

Jesus' world is different. It places God first, and others second. There is no room for selfishness in His kingdom. The next time someone suggests something that invades your "comfort zone" ask yourself if you are being self-less or selfish?

See you Sunday!

-gls