

MOMENTUM BUILDERS

DIGGING INTO THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE.

CLAYTON KING

"TAKE UP YOUR CROSS"

Clayton takes us back in history to share what it meant when Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me." Following Jesus is risky and costs you everything.

MESSAGE OPENER:

In 1193, the English King Richard I, also known as Richard the Lionheart, was returning from leading a Crusade to the Holy Land. As he returned through Europe, Leopold V captured him in Austria. The Holy Roman Emperor demanded a ransom for Richard's release. The price was to be 150,000 marks, equal to three tons of silver. This was an enormous ransom demand. But the people of England so loved their king they submitted to extra taxation, and many nobles donated their fortunes for Richard's release. After many months, the money was raised and King Richard returned to England. That's where we get the expression, "a king's ransom."

But to us, the term "a King's ransom" could better be applied to the tremendous price Jesus, the King of Kings paid for our sins on the cross. This King wasn't being ransomed; He paid the ransom so we can be set free. It is the most expensive ransom in the history of mankind.

In another story that came from the Crusades, Norman Lord Grimbald de Pauncefot was captured by the Saracens. When asked the ransom price for his release the Turkish prince demanded the severed right hand of de Pauncefot's young bride, Eleanor. In a tremendous act of courage and sacrifice, Lady Eleanor complied, and had her left hand amputated and sent to ransom her husband. In a sense, that's what Jesus did for you, but He didn't just give His hand—He gave His life.

Source: <http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-sermon-central-staff-stories-salvation-81384.asp>

READ: Mark 8:31-38

WATCH: Clayton King—Momentum 2013. 49 Minutes. <http://onmissioninsights.com/takeupyourcross>

KEY POINTS:

Embracing the cross is the starting point of relationship. The love and the grace of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can save you. But it can not save us until we hear it, believe it, and respond to it.

If anyone would come after me, he must "Take up his cross." Following Jesus is not like "following" a rock star celebrity. Jesus forked the road with his statement, "Take up your cross." Using this historical context of Sephorus, this statement had huge cultural implications for his listeners. "Take up your cross" meant more with the historical knowledge of the revolt of Judas the Galilean.

CLOSING CHALLENGES:

Heart Check. You have heard the truth of what it costs to follow Jesus. It is your choice to believe it and respond to it. What is your response to this message?

Take up your Cross. Jesus forked the road with this statement. What did it mean in historical context? What does it mean for us today? How does this change your view of your Christian walk?

Denying self. What parts of your life need denied? If following means losing yourself, what business do you need to do with God today?

Note to youth leaders: Create an opportunity for your students to respond to these questions with you one-on-one. Also, create an opportunity for your students to respond to this message—either to deny self, respond in belief, or repent of sin.