

August 10. Self-Denial

by J.R. Miller

Transcript

"Then Jesus said to His disciples: If anyone would come after Me â€” he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me!" Matthew 16:24

There are few things at which people enact greater farces â€” than in their feeble and foolish efforts at self-denial. Very few seem to have the remotest conception of what self-denial is!

One does without meat on Fridays, eating fish instead â€” and thinks that he has denied himself in a most commendable way.

Another gives up candy or a certain amusement for forty days in Lent â€” and is proud of over his great self denial.

Others make themselves miserable in various ways: inflicting pain, making useless and uncalled-for sacrifices â€” as if God were somehow pleased when they suffer!

But none of these things constitute self-denial. There is no merit or virtue in . . . giving up anything, suffering any loss or pain, or making any sacrifice â€” merely for its own sake.

True self-denial is the renouncing of SELF â€” and the yielding of the whole life to the will of Christ. It is SELF â€” coming down from the heart\

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