

**Exposition of Luke 9:21-27**

21 But He warned them and instructed *them* not to tell this to anyone, Peter has just confessed Jesus as the promised Messiah before the Christ and His closest 12 followers.

22 saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”

Christ foretells His coming rejection from the religious authorities, His suffering, death, and subsequent resurrection.

23 And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

In His usual teaching method, Jesus uses every opportunity to instruct His followers. We may have a switch of audience here, as noted by the “And He was saying to **all**...”. The lesson given is that Christ's followers need to understand His example and do likewise. If anyone wishes to follow Christ, this one must, in the same way, deny himself (as Christ did), take up his cross daily (as Christ did once), and then follow Him. Notice the inclusion of the adverb 'daily'. This leaves no room for a literal interpretation of this verse, as some have taken it to actually be crucified.

24 “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Further expounding on the lesson, Christ addresses our aversion to following His previous commandment. It is hard to deny ourself because we are naturally wishing to save our life. We must be willing to leave behind our natural wishes to save our life, die for Christ's sake, and then we will fulfill our desire to save our life.

25 “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

One more level of expounding is given for us. The act mentioned in the previous verse of wishing to save one's life, resulting in its loss-- this is explained to be the act of seeking to gain things in the temporary world. Christ takes this to the farthest accomplishments and shows its futility if one neglects the eternal world.

26 “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels.

Christ speaks of how this will manifest: in the coming judgment at the end of time.

27 “But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Here, Christ again speaks of death, as in previous verses. It has long been a debate about what this verse means. Some commentators say this refers to Christ's manifestation of His glory at The Transfiguration, in the following verse. Some say Christ's Kingdom has come in power with His death and resurrection. It seems most natural to understand this pronouncement in light of the previous mentions of death and the lesson being taught, “Some standing here will not die to themselves before the the day of judgment.”