

Sermon Notes: “(Not) Lost Along the Way”

Matthew 24:45-51; Philippians 3:17-4:4

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OUR CALLING: To Remain “Friends of the Cross of Christ”

Philippians 3:18 -- For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ;

I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

Luke 14:27 -- Whoever does not **carry the cross** and follow me (Jesus) cannot be my disciple

Friends of the Cross Challenge their PRIDE

Galatians 6:14

May I never boast of anything except **the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:17-19, 22

17 Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that **the cross of Christ** might not be emptied of its power.

18 For the message about **the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, *‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’* ²³ We proclaim **Christ crucified**, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles

Friends of the Cross Challenge their PREJUDICES

Ephesians 2:15-16

15. Christ has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two (*Jew and Gentile*), thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through **the cross**, putting to death that (*DR: racial and spiritual*) hostility

Colossians 1:20-21

²⁰ Through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace (*DR: with God and with each other*) through the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you (Gentiles) who were once estranged (*DR: on the outside of God’s family*) and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled (*into God’s family*) in his fleshly body through death.

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on **the cross**, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.

Friends of the Cross are Challenged to PERSEVERE

Hebrews 12:1b-2

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 24:45-51

Jesus said: ⁴⁵“Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time?

⁴⁶Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

⁴⁷Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.

⁴⁸But if that wicked slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’

⁴⁹and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards,

⁵⁰the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. ⁵¹He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Philippians 3:17-4:3

3:17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

18For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

19Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

20But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4.1Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.