

beyond sunday

not a fan — 10.12.25

The "Comfortable" Cross — Mark Turney

1. Read Luke 9:23–24

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me..."

- How would the first disciples have heard these words in their Roman context?
- What does "taking up your cross daily" actually look like in ordinary life today?
- What might Jesus be asking you to lay down right now?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18

- Why does Paul say the message of the cross is "foolishness" to the world?
- How do you see this same mindset in Silicon Valley culture—or even in the church?
- When have you discovered that what seemed "weak" or "foolish" was actually God's power at work?

3. Read Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

- What does it mean for your "false self" to be crucified with Christ?
- How does surrendering control actually open the door to deeper life and freedom?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to let His life replace your own striving?

4. Read Philippians 3:10–11

- Paul longs to know Christ and the power of His resurrection “now.” What would it look like to experience resurrection power in your present circumstances?
- Have you ever seen God bring new life out of something that first had to “die”?

5. Read Ephesians 1:18–20

“The incomparably great power for us who believe...”

- How does this verse reshape your view of the Holy Spirit’s presence in you?
- What keeps that power from “flowing” freely in your life—what clogs the pipe, as the sermon put it?
- How could you begin clearing that blockage this week?

6. Read John 10:10

- Jesus promises “life to the full.” How does that promise fit with His command to take up a cross?
- Where have you seen God use pain or loss to bring abundant life?

7. Reflection: Comfort vs. Transformation

- In what ways do you see yourself or our culture worshiping comfort?
- How has God used discomfort or challenge to grow your faith?

8. The Lizard on the Shoulder (C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

- What “lizard” in your life whispers that you can’t live without it?
- The angel says, “It won’t kill you, but it will hurt.” What would trusting God through that pain look like for you right now?

9. Prayer and Response

Read again Galatians 2:20 or Philippians 3:10–11.

- How might you pray these verses as a daily surrender this week?
- Invite the group to pray for one another—to “pick up the cross” in specific, loving, practical ways.