

## The goal of <u>following Jesus</u> is not <u>comfort</u>

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>26</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Matthew 16:24-26

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. Because .....if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

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"A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing."

**Martin Luther** 

"....for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:11-13

You can do all things through Jesus Christ

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money" Matthew 6:24

"Honor the LORD with your <u>wealth</u>, with the <u>firstfruits</u> of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

## **Proverbs 3:9**

"Bring the whole tithe (A tithe is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one's income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. <u>Test me in this,"</u> says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:10

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12

Following Jesus is more valuable than comfort or gold