

- I. Jesus Took Up a Cross for Us (John 19:17).**
  - A. Jesus was in control of his journey to the cross from start to finish; he was a loving Savior, not a helpless victim.**
  - B. Crucifixion was introduced to the Jews by the Romans.**
  - C. Crucifixion was a cruel practice.**
- II. Jesus Wants Us to Take Up a Cross for Him (Matt. 16:24).**
  - A. What does it mean to take up a cross?**
    - 1. For Jesus taking up a cross meant just that; he literally took up a cross.**
    - 2. The cross was Christ's divine calling ...his ultimate purpose ...he lived a cross-driven life.**
    - 3. Our "cross" is our divine calling ...what God wants and expects us to do.**
  - B. Our "cross" is something we want to "carry" ... "carrying our cross" will bring us great joy (see Heb.12:2).**
  - C. All followers of Jesus are called to do the same thing; our basic calling is to love God and people (see Matt. 22:37,39) and make disciples of Jesus (see Matt. 28:19,20).**
  - D. Each follower of Jesus also has a unique calling; this unique calling is determined by our SHAPE.**
    - 1. "S" stands for spiritual gifts (God-given talents).**
    - 2. "H" stands for heart (what your passionate about).**
    - 3. "A" stands for abilities (natural skills).**
    - 4. "P" stands for personality.**
    - 5. "E" stands for experiences.**
  - E. Practical suggestions to help you plug in at Salem.**
    - 1. Explore the possibilities.**
    - 2. Experiment.**
    - 3. Examine your feelings.**
    - 4. Evaluate your effectiveness.**
    - 5. Expect confirmation from others.**
  - F. As a follower of Jesus the most important thing you can do is get involved in a ministry that's consistent with your SHAPE and serve Jesus by serving others.**
  - G. The affect of your ministry will outlast your career, your hobby, or anything else you do.**
  - H. Those who deny self, take up a cross, and follow Jesus will experience "life to the full" (see John 10:10).**