

Monday - March 18

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to follow Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" Luke 9:23

Growing up a little boy in Ohio, Sunday mornings were predictable. Dad made everybody get up, put on nice clothes, and we went to church. "Here are two quarters for the offering plate," he would say as he dropped the coins in my little hand. There wasn't much talk about church or God during the rest of the week. God and church were primarily a "Sunday thing," and I knew that next Sunday there would be two more quarters waiting.

Now that I'm a father, I look at my beautiful children and I am reminded of God's beauty every single day, not just on weekends. Christ's love is much more than a "Sunday thing" and following Christ's lead should be more than a "once a week thing" too. Nobody is perfect, but Christ asks us to try to live by His example. This is not a Sunday morning kind of walk, it's a daily walk.

We all have different strengths, different weaknesses, different things we prioritize, and different things we choose to overlook. However, Christ asks us to find our own personal crosses and to confront those selfish interests every day. I would hope my children see my walk as more than a Sunday morning Christian and I know that how they remember me will be based on the entire week they see me, every week, for as long as I have time with them.

Chris Martin

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a role model. Please help me remember that I am asked to follow His example and His lead each day, and not just on Sunday. Please help me show my children the love of God daily by example and help me bear my own personal crosses. Amen.