

Look! A Cross!
Luke 9:18-26

Few historical events created more confusion than the _____ of _____ into the world. Jesus' public ministry created quite a stir. His teachings and actions were clear and obvious, but there was much confusion about His identity. Jesus knew that confusion persisted, even among His own _____. He asked them about popular perceptions of Him and their own opinions. Peter answered for the group and Jesus confirmed the accuracy of his answer: God's Messiah.

The disciples weren't _____ by the opinion of the masses. If only we could be so steady. Even people who call themselves Christians today adopt _____ about Jesus like He was an enlightened, _____ man who influenced the world for good, but He was no _____ person. It's far too easy for even those who claim faith in God to be swayed by popular opinion.

That the disciples believed Jesus to be the Messiah was great, but there was still room for _____. 1st-century Jews believed God was going to raise up a descendant of King David who would reign as a _____, restoring the Davidic kingdom and _____ Rome. That's not what Jesus came to do.

We also tend to make Jesus into who we _____ rather than who He really is. We want a Jesus who _____ our _____, not one who carries a cross and calls us to _____.

His call to "deny," is the same used for _____. To deny yourself is to look in the mirror and say, "I don't _____ that guy. I don't _____ him. He's not my _____ or my _____."

Second, the phrase "take up your cross," means to choose a life of following Jesus knowing that there will be a _____, and it will likely cost you _____.

Look! On the floor! There is _____ Jesus spoke of. Have you _____? Will you?