

# TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW JESUS

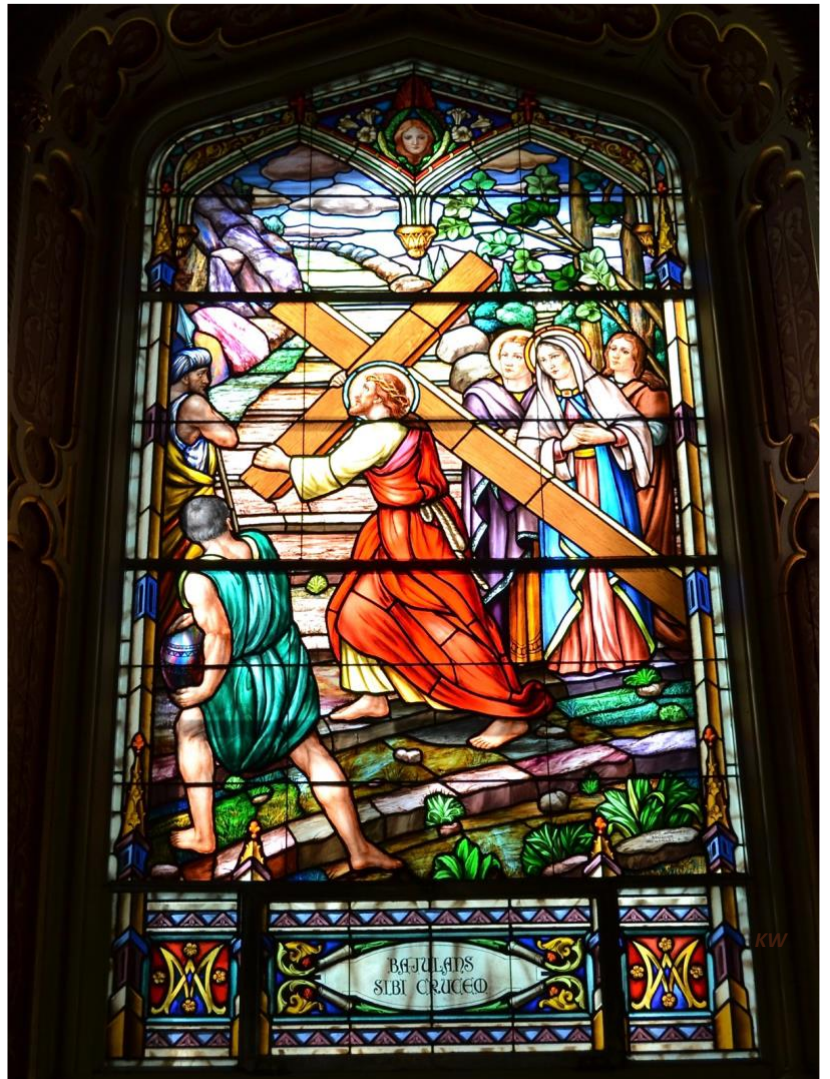
*A large church stained glass displays the moment of Jesus carrying the cross towards crucifixion. The passage in Matthew chapter 16 describes Jesus' prediction of His sufferings and the cruel death. He told the disciples that will happen. Then verse 24 calls on His disciples:*

*To be His disciples – Jesus calls each of us to be His disciples. We need to be His disciples in order to make more disciples.*

*To deny oneself & take up the cross – That is one of the criteria to be His disciple. Self-denial is not just having some inconvenience, but it demands major sacrifices. We need to give up our former desires and the old way of life.*

*To follow Jesus – This is a call for full commitment to Christ's way. How can you follow Jesus unless you are very close to Him. Thus, seek Him and act according to His way daily. Jesus already set the example. He humbles Himself to God and took on the cross. He follows God's will.*

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."



Remembering Jesus death on the cross is for us, may each of us has the full commitment to be His disciple!

