

**“Following Jesus”
Matthew 7:13-14**

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”*

Have you ever surrendered your life to Jesus?

As a follower of Jesus, am I living my life out of the overflow of Jesus' life in me?

I John 5:13 *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Reality #1: Following Jesus does not free my life from trouble.

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Matthew 16:24-25 *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

II Corinthians 4:7-12 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

Reality #2: Following Jesus is the only way to life.

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John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Reality #3: Following Jesus is not a popular way to live.

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John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:19 *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”*

II Corinthians 4:3-5 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Matthew 13:45-46 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

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