

August 23, 2020  
**“Faking It or Making It?”**  
**(Matthew 16:21-28)**

The practice of faking your own death has its own name:  
“\_\_\_\_\_”

Jesus is calling us to begin a new life by \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to a new way of living – a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 16:24 – “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”**

What does that mean for our lives?

**#1.- The first step to a new life is to \_\_\_\_\_ one’s self.**

The word Jesus uses for “deny one’s self” can also mean “to \_\_\_\_\_ one’s self.”

But \_\_\_\_\_ one’s self to God is the first step in an \_\_\_\_\_ new life.

**#2.- Take up their \_\_\_\_\_...**

One thing it will mean is that we will have to give up our \_\_\_\_\_ to a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

There is nothing comfortable about a \_\_\_\_\_.

Some people never want to leave their \_\_\_\_\_ zone.

Many of us don’t want to do anything that requires us to \_\_\_\_\_ some of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of us are just \_\_\_\_\_ it!

(over)

**#3.- “....and \_\_\_\_\_ me.”**

Following Jesus means living a life of loving \_\_\_\_\_ just as he did.

When you take up Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_, you are taking up his \_\_\_\_\_!

His heart, his priorities, his values, his love now \_\_\_\_\_ in you!

Your journey through life becomes a journey to honor his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his heart!

You are taking up the very \_\_\_\_\_ and driving ambition of Jesus’ life: sharing God’s \_\_\_\_\_ with the world!

**Jesus’ challenge:**

Whatever you have to sacrifice, whatever you have to lay down in order to pick up his cross, then DO IT!!!

**Why fake it any longer?**

**Why not surrender your life to God today?**