

9:23 Then he said to them all. The audience of disciples in [Luke 9:18](#) is enlarged.

If anyone would come after me. This metaphor describes what it means to become a disciple (in the sense of a follower) of Jesus as [14:27](#) shows.

Three conditions of discipleship are laid out. The first involves a need to deny oneself. This is much more radical than simply a denial of certain things. This mandates a rejection of a life based on self-interest and self-fulfillment. Instead a disciple is to be one who seeks to fulfill the will and the teachings of Christ. Another metaphor to express this act of commitment is to hate one's own life ([14:26](#)). The opposite response can be seen in [12:9](#); [Acts 3:13–14](#); [7:35](#).

The second condition involves the need to take up one's cross. This need not be a *vaticinia ex eventu*, or a prophecy after the fact, but Jesus' own crucifixion reveals more fully to Luke's readers that this call is for a commitment unto death. There needs to be willingness to suffer martyrdom if need be. (Cf. [Luke 14:27](#) and [23:26](#), where Simon of Cyrene takes up the cross and follows Jesus.) Luke added the need to do this "daily." Whereas Mark emphasized the initial act of denying oneself once and for all ([Mark 8:34](#)),

in Luke there is an emphasis on the need to make such a commitment each day.

The final condition is the need to follow Jesus. In contrast to the other conditions this verb is a present imperative, indicating that following Jesus must be continual. For this metaphor see comments on [5:11](#).