

Who else but God could turn a symbol of defeat into a symbol of victory?

Who else but God could take symbol of guilt and turn it into a symbol of grace?

AND MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT.

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What Jesus did for the \_\_\_\_\_,

He wants to do for \_\_\_\_\_.

Because in our greatest \_\_\_\_\_, God is able to demonstrate His great \_\_\_\_\_.

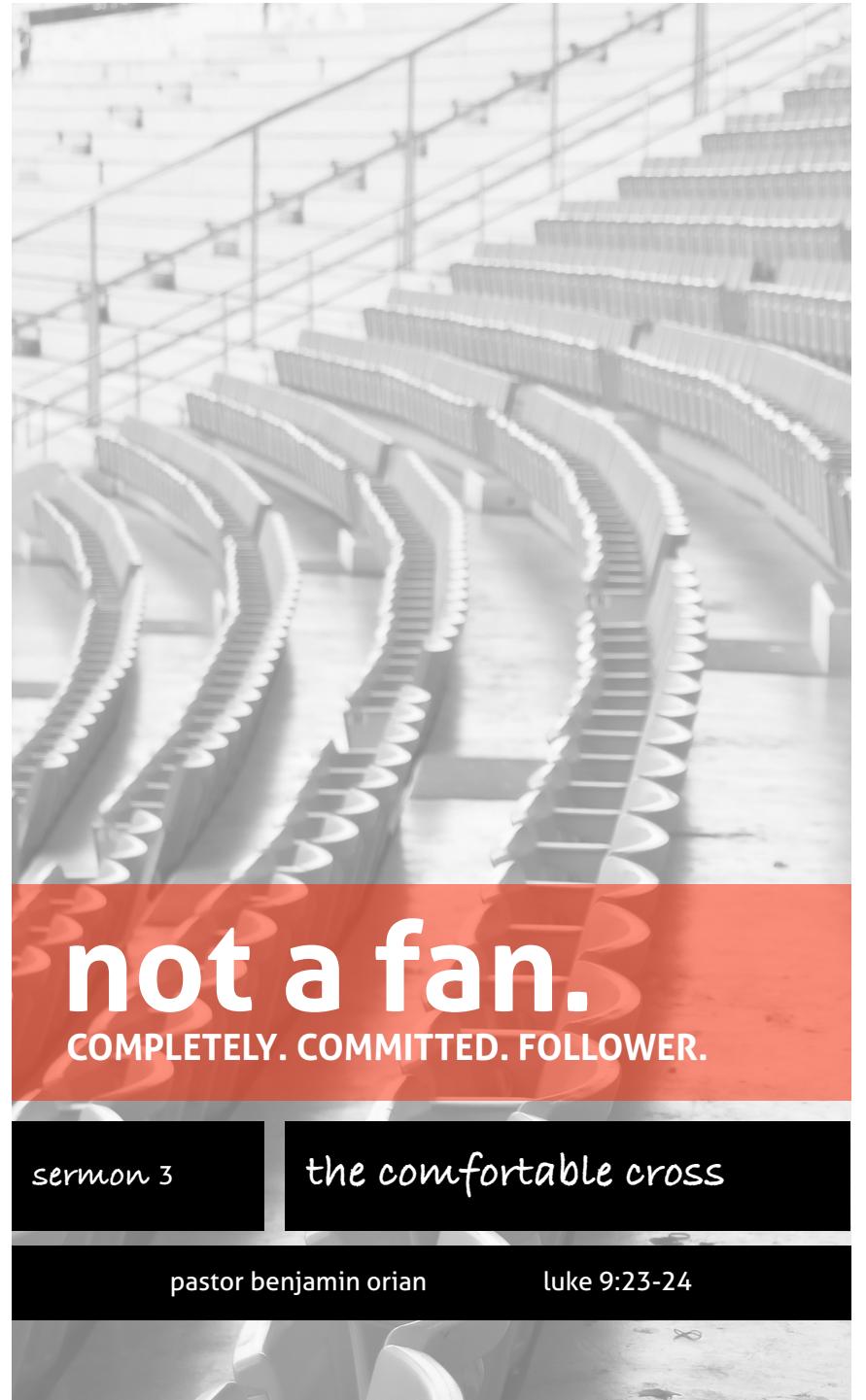
Carrying the cross of Christ shows our weakness—and it demonstrates His strength and power in our lives.

Are you willing to carry your cross and follow Him?

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**not a fan.**  
study guide by pastor benjamin orian  
[www.orian.us](http://www.orian.us)

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sermon 3

the comfortable cross

pastor benjamin orian

luke 9:23-24

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## THE WORD OF THE DAY \_\_\_\_\_

Society places a pretty high value on comfort. And there is a ton of money being made and spent on making life comfortable.

Memory foam for your beds...

Lazy-Boy recliners...

Cars are getting more and more luxurious—remember when they were just two tires and a steering wheel? Everyone had to make it go shuffling their feet?

And there are TV shows that exploit our passion for comfort. Shows like *Dirty Jobs*, *Naked and Afraid*, or *Snake City*.

But has **COMFORT** carried over into the church, too?

Are we too comfortable with the cross?

Have we cheapened the cross? Do we contextualize it so things don't seem so bad?

Have you heard someone say, "Well, we all have our own cross to bear..." and it refers to a most menial task or an everyday inconvenience?

What do we do to the cross at church?

**"The He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his **CROSS** daily, and follow Me.' "** (Luke 9:23)

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## *What does it really mean to **carry** a **cross**?*

Consider the meaning of the cross in the First Century AD:

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18:

"For the message of the cross is \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."

In the First Century, the cross was a place of execution and torture of the worst and vilest offenders. It was an unspeakably horrific way to die—so much so that Roman citizens weren't allowed to be crucified. The cross was anything but dignified.

Thus, for a god of any sort to die by crucifixion, seemed foolish to the people of the day. It was foolishness to think that the primary message of the Gospel is that God came to earth in the form of a man and was crucified.

In the first century—a cross was a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.

But maybe that's God's point. Maybe that's what makes the cross so beautiful.