

**Not a Fan week 4: The comfortable cross
September 30th, 2018**

Luke 9:23 (NLT, pg. 861) Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (pg. 949-950)

In the first century, the cross was the ultimate symbol of _____.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT, pg. 949) The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Jesus completely _____ the meaning of the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (NLT, pg. 949) This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

What God did for the cross, He can do for _____.

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NLT, pg. 949) Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NLT, pg. 970) Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Final Thought: The cross originally stood for weakness, shame and death; but Jesus turned it into a symbol of God’s power, hope, and true life as we follow Him. What in your life needs to be _____?