

Embrace the Cross

Words: Andy Gleiser

Music: Ben Everson

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"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

Ben Everson is an evangelist as well as an accomplished musician. He is also married to my cousin, Amanda. In 2011, Ben held a contest for aspiring poets to submit lyrics for a possible song. I entitled my poem "Embrace the Cross." Though I didn't win the contest, he asked if he could have my text and put it to music.

If I am to be a follower of Jesus, it will actually require two crosses: His cross and mine. His cross is indispensable for salvation. But to be like Jesus means that I too will carry a cross in this life.

The first stanza speaks of Jesus' cross while the remaining three verses reveal how we interact with the cross that we are to bear for Him. The chorus returns our attention to Jesus and His cross.