



As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Matthew 27:32 (NIV)

As the soldiers led Him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Luke 23:26 (NIV)

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

Mark 15:21 (NIV)

1. The encounter changed Simon's direction and plans .
2. The encounter required Simon to carry a cross not chosen .
3. The encounter portrays discipleship as following behind Jesus who goes before .

“The way is unutterably hard, and at every moment we are in danger of straying from it. If we regard this way as one we follow in obedience to an external command, if we are afraid of ourselves all the time, it is indeed an impossible way. But if we behold Jesus Christ going on before step by step, we shall not go astray.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is a specific way your encounter with Jesus changed you or required something from you?
2. How are you doing in following behind Christ as He goes before you?