

# CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...

- Quoting Henri Nouwen, Charles Ringma writes: "The issue is not where you are, but how you live wherever you are." Frequently the most relevant issue for us is not a change of circumstances, but a change of self." (*Dare to Journey with Heiri Nouwen*) The everyday choices we make are often influenced, guided — even *driven* — by the "self". Jesus' call is to "deny your self" and follow him. But "the self" will not be denied or go quietly...

Is it any wonder then that Paul goes so far as to say that "the self" has been crucified with Christ? And that the fruit of the Spirit — of new life in Christ — is characterized by "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"?

Disciples of Christ have chosen to answer his call. When considering the commitment of soldiership, it might be asked, "What's in it for me?" But the question misses the point. Salvation Soldiers have decided to live that calling in sacred covenant — to God, and with others. And the covenant is **CALLING THE COURAGEOUS... to self-denial**: "I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest, or immoral." And this has implications on all manner of decisions we make: Stewardship. Abstinence. Evangelism. Loyalty. Through popularity or persecution. ...Courageous.

**Read:**  
 Mark 8:34-38  
 Galatians 5:22-25  
 Philippians 3:7-14

**Read:**  
*The Salvation Army Soldier's Covenant*

**Consider:**  
*In what areas do I need to consider greater self-denial? How can I help ensure that my self-denial is not solely for my benefit, but also for the sake of others?*

**Pray:**  
*I pray that I would do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. May Your Spirit help me to, in humility, value others above myself. May I not look to my own interests, but to the interests of others, having the same mindset of Christ in my relationships with others: May I not consider my position something to be used to my own advantage, but be willing to humble myself as a servant before God and before others.*  
 (paraphrased from) Philippians 2:3-7

*All to Jesus I surrender,  
 All to Him I freely give;  
 I will ever love and trust  
 Him,  
 In His presence daily live.  
 I surrender all,  
 I surrender all.  
 All to Thee, my blessed  
 Saviour, I surrender all.*

**to self-denial.**

"MAY WE EVEN MORE DARE FOR YOU"  
 Canada & Bermuda Territorial Soldiership Campaign



## CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...to self-denial ...**MORE** or less.

During the next 4 weeks, consider taking on the "MORE or less" self-denial challenge, individually, or with your family or friends. Every day of each week, you will either do/give more of something or keep/spend less. Here's how it works...

- Week 1 - Read More:** Read through the complete book of Matthew by the end of the week. Hear from Jesus how self-denial is a significant characteristic of living in the Kingdom of God.
- Week 2 - Keep Less:** Commit to living more simply and rid yourself of some of the "stuff" taking up space in your life. By the end of the week, you'll have downsized by 28 items.
- Week 3 - Spend Less:** Each day of the week, spend less than you otherwise would have, and by the end of the week, give the money you saved to Partners in Mission.
- Week 4 - Give More:** Go beyond last week's self-denial, and give more. Following the same pattern, sacrificially give more to Partners in Mission this week.

Week	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
<b>Read More</b>	Read Matthew 1	Read Matthew 2-3	Read Matthew 4-6	Read Matthew 7-10	Read Matthew 11-15	Read Matthew 16-21	Read Matthew 22-28
<b>Keep Less</b>	Throw away, donate, or give away 1 Item	Throw away, donate, or give away 2 Items	Throw away, donate, or give away 3 Items	Throw away, donate, or give away 4 Items	Throw away, donate, or give away 5 Items	Throw away, donate, or give away 6 Items	Throw away, donate, or give away 7 Items
<b>Spend Less</b>	Spend \$1 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$2 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$3 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$4 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$5 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$6 less today, and give to Partners in Mission	Spend \$7 less today, and give to Partners in Mission
<b>Give More</b>	Give \$1 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$2 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$3 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$4 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$5 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$6 more to Partners in Mission	Give \$7 more to Partners in Mission