

Short Talk

(SHT061a)

**Are we called to the
easy life?**

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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SHORT TALK: “ARE WE CALLED TO THE EASY LIFE?”

Aim of Short talk:	To encourage each person to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Jesus.
Use of Short talk:	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
Main themes:	Sacrifice, service, obedience
Biblical references:	Matthew 16:21-28
Lectionary:	Year A 2023 – The 13 th Sunday after Trinity
Staging:	Before the service begins lay out a couch of some sort at the front of the church that you will recline on. This could be as simple as a few chairs pushed together and covered in a blanket / throw with some cushions.
Cast:	Service leader (SL), Bill
Props:	Mobile phone, Takeaway pizza box with a slice of pizza in it, glass of orange squash.

Who wants life to be easy and comfortable?

- I know that I do. *(Go and recline on your couch)*
- Mmmmm this is so comfortable.I don't think I want to get up from here.
- Someone else can carry on leading the service.....I'm staying here.
- This is the life.

Now what would make this really perfect is a pizza cooked just how I like it. *(Shout out to Bill)*

- Bill.....I need a pizza.
- Can you get me one quickly.....I'm starving. *(Bill carries on a pizza box and gives it to you)*
- And I also want a glass of orange squash to go with this. *(Bill goes off and returns with a drink of orange squash while you begin to eat the pizza. He then goes and stands at the back of the church)*
- This is the life.

I wonder what's on TV today.....*(Pull out mobile phone and pretend to look)*

- Oh I've got to see "Country file," "Casualty," and "Strictly" for starters.....
- In fact there is so much to watch that I think that I will stay here all day.
- Oh this is the life.

Mmmm this top is getting a bit scruffy *(Look at your top intently)*.....I deserve to look better than this.

- I think I'll buy myself to a nice new Ralph Lauren shirt.....I know the one I want.
- Better check my bank balance first.....*(Look at phone intently)*

Ah good.....just got enough money left from buying myself a new phone last week.

- There we are.....2 clicks and it is on its way. (*Lean back on the couch*)
- This is the life.

I wonder how many people are following me on twitter.....(*Look at phone intently*)

- Look at that365 followers.....all interested in my life.....in me.....in what I am doing.....in what I am thinking.....in what I am saying.....it's good to be liked.
- This is the life.....nice and easy.....nice and comfortable.

(*Bill shouts at you from the back of the congregation:*)

Bill: **That's not the life that Jesus has called us to live.** (*Bill walks forward to the front*)

(*Service Leader jumps off the couch in shock*)

SL: What do you mean? Jesus wants us to be happy doesn't he?

Bill: **Yes....but you won't be happy living for yourself. That is called existing.**

SL: So how does Jesus want us to live?

Bill: **Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves." That means that in every moment of your life you put what God wants before what you want.**

SL: OK....so I guess that means that I need to continue to lead this service and not lie on this couch all day. That's not easy.

Bill: **Jesus also said that we are to "take up our cross and follow Him"**

SL: But what does that mean? Do I need to go and find a cross to carry around?

Bill: **It means living a life of serving other people.....**

SL: Like you did bringing me pizza and a drink....

Bill: **It means giving up our time if someone needs us to visit them or help them.....**

SL: Instead of just lying watching television....

Bill: **It means giving away some of our money to people having a hard time.....**

SL: Instead of just spending it all on ourselves.....

Bill: **It means following Jesus rather than worrying about who is following us....**

SL: Carrying a cross sounds much harder work than lying on a couch Bill.

Bill: **It is, but this is the life Jesus calls us to, walking in His steps.....a life of meaning and adventure that will bring us joy.**

SL: It sounds like this is the life we all need to lead.

(*Exit Bill*)