

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# The rejection of God

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*Jesus said to his disciples:*

*"The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected  
by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes,  
and be killed and on the third day be raised."*

*Then he said to all,*

*"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself  
and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

*For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.*

*What profit is there for one to gain the whole world  
yet lose or forfeit himself?" (Lk 9:22-25)*

The body is worth more than clothing and life more than food. Christians have faith in a providential God, constantly involved with His creation and, above all, with those creatures of highest dignity, humankind, for whose salvation He did not hesitate to incarnate. The Salvation that God gives us with the Incarnation of His Son consists in teaching us, in showing us and in witnessing to us, that we are not autonomous, from Him, even if He leaves us free to refuse His love. The rejection of God is therefore the true source of the sufferings with which humanity incredulously scourges itself.