

The Cost of Discipleship

Guiding Principle:

You must never read God's word without asking:

1. How does this apply to me?
2. What does this say about me, my life, and how I am living?

Luke 9:57-62

“As they were going along the road, **someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”**”

58 - And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

59 - **To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said,** “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

60 - And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

61 - **Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”**

62 - Jesus said to him, **“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

Principle #1:

A right relationship with Christ is the key to discipleship. Therefore, Christ must always be our focus, not the number of men we are discipling, not the number of men who come to Christ through our ministry, or anything else.

Principle #2:

We must examine ourselves to make sure we are not like the disciples who turned away from Jesus and ceased to follow Him when He told them He is the Bread of Life and that they must eat His body and drink His blood. *See John 6:22-66*

Luke 12:49-53

“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!

50 - I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

51 - Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.

52 - For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.

53 - They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

The Offence of the Cross

The Gospel is divisive.

It pushes everything to the side of the road.

Christ is the goal.

Conflict with ourselves and
conflict with our culture.

The demands of discipleship

Being a disciple requires that we obey,
even when we do not understand.

Discipleship often leads us to place ourselves under the authority of someone who has been walking in the faith as long as we have or longer than we have.

Luke 14:25-33

Counting the Cost of Discipleship

“Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,

26 - “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

27 - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

28 - For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it.

29 - Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

30 - saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

31 - Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 - And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

33 - So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ
requires a conscious, deliberate decision.
It is never accidental.

To Deny yourself and taking up your cross is to remove yourself from the throne of your heart and put Jesus there and live in obedience to Him no matter the cross. That may involve suffering. It will always involve submission to His will.

WE MUST CONTINUALLY ASK

What is the foundation of my life?

Where is my hope?

Am I willing to die for Christ?

Am I willing to live for Christ?

To whom am I accountable in my walk with Christ?

Is my walk with Christ strong enough that someone else is willing to be accountable to me?

“The dye has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I will not look up, let up, slow down, back away or be still. I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotion, plaudits or popularity. I do not have to be right; I do not have to be first. I do not have to be recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven. My road is narrow, my way is rough. My companions are few. My guide is reliable. My mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not give up, back up, let up or shut up until I have preached up, prayed up, stored up, and stayed up the cause of Christ. I must go until He returns. I must give until I drop. I must preach until all know. And I must work until He comes back for His own. And when He comes back, He will have no trouble recognizing me. My colors will be clear and my flag will be nailed to the mast. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.”