

Life Groups Questions

1. Look at Luke 9:57-62—what is the cost of following Jesus in these verses?
2. Why did so many of those who heard Jesus fall away?
3. What is the cost today for a person in following Christ?
4. Have you ever felt under pressure for your faith in Jesus?
5. When did you first come to Christ and make a commitment to following him?
6. When have you known difficulty in holding on to Christ in the dark times of your life?
7. Have you enjoyed / been challenged / grown through this sermon series on discipleship? If so, how and in what ways?

Mark Woodward
Sunday 26th November 2017
Discipleship

sermon notes
The Cost of Discipleship

The Cost of Discipleship

Jesus never promised an easy life to those who follow him.

But he did promise to meet our deepest needs, that in him we would find forgiveness for the past, a new life for the present and a hope for the future.

But Jesus was honest about the cost of the discipleship, that many of the enthusiastic crowds who flocked to him, turned back and no longer followed him.

The Cost of Following Jesus – Luke 9:57-62

1. Faith

Faith is the essence of discipleship, this is where it all begins – it is about a whole trust in Jesus.

There will be times when the reality of our faith is tested.

Mark 4:40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

There are surprisingly many occasions in the gospels when Jesus speaks to his disciples and tells them that they have little faith.

2. The Path of Obedience

From the earliest days of Christ’s ministry people were astonished by Jesus’ authority and they were astounded by his teaching.

People flocked to see him, to listen to his teaching. His teaching was so threatening to the authorities that they plotted to get rid of him

His miracles of calming the storm, the wind and the waves, demonstrated his power over nature.

He is Lord over nature, King of the Universe

But more than that, and this is where it gets personal, is that Jesus wants to be Lord of our lives – there can be no half measures with Christ.

If he is not Lord of all, he is not Lord at all

‘The disciple of Jesus is the follower of Jesus. He has committed himself to go the way that Jesus goes. He has pledged himself to a life of absolute obedience. When he fails to obey he must repent and ask for Christ’s forgiveness at once, for sin breaks the discipleship and spoils the relationship. Without obedience there is no faith; and without faith there is no discipleship.’

3. The Way of the Cross

Jesus repeatedly taught his disciples that ‘the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders’

Rom 6:2-8

Our old self has died

The pull of the world must die

Relationships

The Cost of following Jesus

The disciples were told to speak no more of Jesus, but they couldn’t not speak of him

You are called to obedience

You may have very little in life – the son of man had no where to lay his head

You must die to self

You must die to the world

You are called to relationship in the Kingdom of God, putting others first