

DISCIPLESHIP

2. Cost of Discipleship



When Jesus asks us to follow him, he is wanting us to follow his example in the way he lived here on earth. Jesus gave staggering conditions for discipleship, yet he never demanded we do anything that he did not do. In fact he did far more than he ever asks of us – he left Heaven to come here to die for us. Let's see what Jesus meant by discipleship.

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:25-33, 9:23-27

1. Count the cost Luke 14:25-33

- ♥ What two parables did Jesus tell to teach the importance of counting the cost? V28-30, 31-33
- ♥ Why do you think Jesus stressed the need for counting the cost?
- ♥ During the time of Jesus there were those who began to follow him, but they did not continue. See John 6:66. We have the same problem today! Why do you think this is? Discuss.
- ♥ What did Jesus require of those who followed him? V26-27, 33. In what ways had the disciples Jesus called in Luke 5:11 met these requirements?
- ♥ What has it meant for you to follow Jesus? Share your story briefly.

2. What is the cost? Luke 9:23-26

In our previous study we learnt that some of the disciples had observed Jesus for about a year. Perhaps during this time they were considering whether they should follow him. It did cost them a great deal when they did decide to follow Jesus, and yet they still had so much to learn about the true cost of discipleship.

Over the years as the disciples followed Jesus, he taught them through his example, in live situations and through his teaching. When Jesus began to prepare for his own death, he explains what the core of discipleship is and what their confession of his Lordship really meant. He was going to give himself up to die and they must follow! That must have been a shocking revelation to the disciples.

- ♥ What are the conditions of discipleship that Jesus gave in Luke 9:23-26?
- ♥ What is the meaning of the following phrases?
 - 'To deny himself'
 - 'To take up his cross daily'
 - 'To lose his life'

It is not always easy to follow Jesus. There are many people around the world who have been disowned by their families because they have chosen to believe in him, and others are mocked and face opposition. Jesus told us this would happen. Whether we have faced this kind of persecution or not, we are all to put our selfish desires aside, and live to please the Lord.

What a wonderful privilege to be called to follow Jesus! Through his death and resurrection he made it possible for us to have the same relationship with our Heavenly Father, as Jesus did while on earth. Yes there is a cost to following Jesus, but the blessings far outweigh what we choose to leave behind. If you have chosen to follow him, he loves you dearly and has promised to always be with you, so do not be afraid.