

The Cost of Discipleship

Opening Prayer

Q: When you think about being a "disciple", what comes to mind? What IS a "disciple"?

Q: What makes being a disciple difficult? What makes it amazing?

Q: How does one become a disciple of Jesus?

Transition: *This week in our "Daily Bible Reading Plan", we encountered several, very significant passages! Today we'll look at Jesus' call to discipleship and how we might grow deeper in our own "following of Jesus".*

READ: Luke 9:23-27 ²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

Q: According to verse 23, Luke writes "He said to them ALL" and then Jesus says "If ANYONE...". "Who" is the invitation of Jesus too? How does this help us understand our mission as disciples? (Hint: Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Peter 3:9)

Discuss: Notice the "If/Then" progression in verse 23: "If anyone would come after me (discipleship)....Then....let him"

- "Deny self"
- "Take up his cross daily"
- "Follow Me"

Q: What is "hard/difficult" about each?

Q: What is amazing about each?

Q: What is NECESSARY for each? (Hint: Ephesians 2:8-10, 4:22; 2 Corinthians 5:7, Colossians 3:10, etc.)

Q: Alive In Christ's Mission Statement is: *"The mission of Alive In Christ is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them to live for His glory".*

Q: How does THIS passage, help us understand our mission?

Q: In order for us to accomplish that mission, what must we do individually?

Q: According to verse 24 (above), what is the reality of either following or not? Is anyone exempt from this statement?

Q: What makes that a significant reality in your mind?

Q: According to verses 25-26, what is the rationale behind Jesus' call and what does rejecting His calling, amount to?

READ: 1 Corinthians 5:31 "...I die every day!"

Q: Paul said this to those in the church at Corinth who denied the resurrection from the dead. Paul makes this statement almost in exasperation that some would deny the teaching of resurrection! How does the resurrection from the dead, help us understand Jesus call to "take up our cross daily"?

Q: Why is "dying to self", necessary to discipleship?

READ: Romans 6:1-4 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Q: Why is baptism important to discipleship?

Q: What's the connection between "newness of life" and discipleship?

Q: What's one thing you could do this week, to help you follow Jesus as a disciple?

Don't Forget:

- Daily Reading Plan on the App
- Daily Reading Plan Group on Facebook - join us!