

Lesson 3: The Cost of Following Jesus

Reference: **Please Read: Mark 8:34-38**

Theme: A disciple of Jesus Christ is a total commitment; He is totally committed to us

Context: Jesus explained to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and be crucified

Introduction:

God spared no expense to redeem us, He is simply asking us to reciprocate in like fashion. Seems like a fair exchange, He gave all for us, so we in turn should give our all to Him.

Matthew 10:37-39, “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross (*Luke 9:23 ‘Daily’*) and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

When it comes to sharing the Gospel to the lost, it’s important to also mention the “fine” print of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We do people a great disservice if we fail to mention the committed lifestyle. Jesus is our savior from hell, but is also to be Lord of our lives.

- **Please Read: Luke 14:25-35**
- As Christians it’s necessary for us to understand the benefits and obligations we have
- God is not looking for converts, but disciples of Jesus – there’s a big difference
- Matthew 28:19, “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*”
- Counting the cost = we are examining our willingness to go the distance with Jesus

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer.

Note: beware of being religious with this as some form of works or penance to earn or deserve

- **Please Read: Colossians 2:16-23**
- Beating ourselves up with condemnation does not bring us closer to God
- But living a consecrated and dedicated life of obedience will
- Jesus’ prayer of consecration in the Garden of Gethsemane- “Not my will but your will”

Isaiah 1:19-20

“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Facilitator Discussion Notes:

Question: “So what does ‘Deny yourself’ and take up your cross daily look like?”

Religious folks take “Denying” oneself to extremes, meaning self-abasement and masochistic abuse. However, that is not what Jesus is saying here at all.

- I believe Jesus’ life on earth is our ultimate example of what he meant in discipleship
- 1 John 2:6, “*Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*”
- **Please Read: 1 Peter 2:21-24**
- Jesus is talking about the cross of love and sacrifice on behalf of others
- Our lives become a living expression of leading people to Jesus
- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

2 Timothy 2:10

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Question: “If Canada forbid Christianity, how would that affect people in churches?”

- **Please Read: Hebrews 10:32-39**
- The answer seems obvious as to our response to overt acts of persecution
 - o But what about the subtle pressures to compromise or suppress our faith?
- **Please Read: 2 Timothy 2:11-13**
- There is a difference between disowning the lord and being faithless
 - o When Peter disowned the Lord 3 times, he was being faithless and in fear
 - o Judas on the other hand disowned the Lord from his heart

Matthew 10:33

But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

Question: “If confronted to denounce your faith in Jesus or die, which would you choose?”

- **Please Read: Hebrews 11:32-40**
 - o Notice vs 35 “Refused to be released...gained a better resurrection”
- Like Jesus, I believe no one can take our life unless we lay it down- **John 10:18**
- Beware of the fear of man or pleasing man at the expense of our faith in Jesus
 - o **Luke 12:4-12; John 12:42-43**

Prv. 29:25, “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.”

Please Pray For One Another In Closing