

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

LUKE 14:25-35

→ *When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Let's combat 2 false narratives about discipleship...

-- Discipleship is something I can opt into later.

-- Discipleship shows how committed I am as a Christian.

WE ARE ALL AT VARYING STAGES OF OUR FOLLOWSHIP... WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS HELP EACH OTHER FOLLOW JESUS BETTER!

- **Following Jesus requires you to _____ your life!**

-- 'Hate' in comparison...

“But some of us love our wives, husbands, and children more than we love God. We miss the mark when we put their development athletically, intellectually, culturally, artistically, and socially before their spiritual well-being. We fall short when we spend more time in the car in one day shuttling them to games and lessons than we do in a month in prayer for their souls. By comparison our lives reveal that we hate God and love our children disproportionately -- and that we are not Jesus' disciples. The paradox is that the proper way to love our children is to 'hate' them because our greatest love for God will enable us to love them with a greater love! Disciples are the best lovers of God and of family and friends. Disciples must be ready to 'hate' -- to give second place to everything and everyone else. The relational cost of discipleship may seem harsh at first. But in right perspective and priority this focuses our lives and makes them richer and fuller. Accepting discipleship's costliness produces a sweet saltiness.” -- R. Kent Hughes

- **Following Jesus will be _____!**

-- It requires complete and total dedication.

-- In first century Christianity, no one was following Jesus casually.

-- You can either have all God has for you in Christ, or you can have nothing. There is no other option.

- **Following Jesus will be _____!**

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-16

→ *“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” – Jim Elliot*

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- **Following Jesus requires you to reprioritize your life!**

-- 'Hate' in comparison...

“But some of us love our wives, husbands, and children more than we love God. We miss the mark when we put their development athletically, intellectually, culturally, artistically, and socially before their spiritual well-being. We fall short when we spend more time in the car in one day shuttling them to games and lessons than we do in a month in prayer for their souls. By comparison our lives reveal that we hate God and love our children disproportionately -- and that we are not Jesus' disciples. The paradox is that the proper way to love our children is to 'hate' them because our greatest love for God will enable us to love them with a greater love! Disciples are the best lovers of God and of family and friends. Disciples must be ready to 'hate' -- to give second place to everything and everyone else. The relational cost of discipleship may seem harsh at first. But in right perspective and priority this focuses our lives and makes them richer and fuller. Accepting discipleship's costliness produces a sweet saltiness.” -- R. Kent Hughes

- **Following Jesus will be costly!**

-- It requires complete and total dedication.

-- In first century Christianity, no one was following Jesus casually.

-- You can either have all God has for you in Christ, or you can have nothing. There is no other option.

- **Following Jesus will be worth it!**

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