

DISCIPLESHIP

2. Cost of Discipleship



(Leader's Notes)

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
(The first parable was about someone making sure they had enough money to complete a tower before they began to build, and the second about a king making sure he had enough troops to go into battle.)
- ♥ Why do you think Jesus stressed the need for counting the cost?
(Jesus knew it would not always be easy to follow him, and unless we are willing to give up everything to follow him, we may not continue the journey.)
- ♥ 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?
(Jesus required that those who follow him leave everything – in other words they put Jesus first in their lives, even above their families. The disciples in Luke 5 did this.)
- ♥ 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?
(One who follows him must be willing to deny himself and take up his cross daily. He must be willing to even lose his life.)

