

## **SERMON TWO...The cost of discipleship!**

**WORD???** 😊-You will be Glad you brought Bible as condition of disciple  
How can YOU make other disciples if you don't know what one is???  
Matthew is going to teach us today the cost of discipleship is a high price to pay, But it's worth it! While heaven remains a FREE GIFT!

*Matt. 8:18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. <sup>19</sup> Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go" <sup>20</sup> Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." <sup>21</sup> Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." <sup>22</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."*

### **Not ALL of the religious leaders rejected Jesus!**

The FIRST one, A SCRIBE, wants to follow Jesus. Note he calls Jesus, "TEACHER", BUT Jesus is quick to let the man know that if he wants to follow Jesus, there will be a price to pay, unlike the FREE GIFT 😊

### **This second man Matthew points to is already a DISCIPLE (Mathetes)**

which can be used in a "General" sense, as a learner or follower of another...OR (Mathetes) can be used in a very "specific or **CONDITIONAL**" sense as we will see shortly...

### **SO WHAT'S UP WITH THE RATHER "HARSE" RESPONSE BY JESUS?**

*VERSE 22 "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."*

**The form of the petition may mean either** (1) that his father had recently died and he wanted to attend his funeral, OR (2) that he asked to remain with his father until he died, AND RECEIVED HIS INHERITANCE and THEN he would follow Jesus. ("Bury my father") was a common phrase used in Jesus day synonymous with receiving rightful inheritance

**DON'T MISS THIS...JESUS KNOWS THE HEART OF ALL PEOPLE AND MATTHEW IS SETTING THE STAGE FOR HIS ULTIMATE AND FINAL CHALLENGE IN CHAPTER 28...THE CALL AND COST OF DISCIPLESHIP!**

In the Ancient near East, burial followed immediately upon death So it is inconceivable that this man would be following Jesus and not have already buried his father if he had just died!

**So for Matthew's Jewish Audience, Jesus rebuke of this man made a lot more sense....**

This man's father was not dead or even at the point of death. This disciple was simply saying he wanted to return home and wait until his father died. Then he would return and follow Jesus.

**This man's request demonstrated he felt discipleship was something he could pick up or lay down at will.** He put material concerns ahead of Jesus. His "treasure" was in worldly mammon first and Jesus last ☹️

Jesus' response, *Let the dead bury their own dead*, showed that following Him carried with it the highest priority. Jesus said that the physically dead could be cared for by those spiritually dead.

**This passage teaches us there is a COST to become Jesus disciple!!!!**

THUS, this passage stands in contrast to the Gospel of GRACE, which teaches that we are saved by FAITH alone, in CHRIST alone, by God's GRACE alone and that heaven is a FREE GIFT!

**STORY: MY PAST BELIEVER/DISCIPLE CHALLENGE WITH MY DOCTORATE**

**QUESTION: How can eternal life be a "Free Gift" and Jesus THEN demand that we become His disciples, where He gives us 10 different Biblical qualifications to become His disciple?**

The answer is found in understanding the difference between **Salvation** and **Discipleship**.

Many people blend the two together, and when they do, confusion follows. **The Bible presents them as connected—but not identical.**

**Salvation is a Free Gift/Discipleship is a Costly Commitment**  
Both are true. HOWEVER, NEITHER CANCELS THE OTHER!

## **I. ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT**

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**A gift is not earned. It is received.**

If you pay for it, it is no longer a gift.

If you work for it, grace is no longer grace.

**Ephesians 2:8–9** *For **by grace you have been saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God;** <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**Salvation is:**

Not earned. Not deserved. Not maintained by human effort

It is received by Faith alone in Christ alone by God's Grace alone.

Jesus paid the full price at Calvary.

You do not add to the finished work of Christ.

**You simply receive it.**

**This is what the Bible calls JUSTIFICATION! 100% A WORK "OF GOD"**

## **II. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS EVERYTHING**

**In Luke 14:26–33 Jesus gives a FEW strong qualifications:**

- Love Him above family
- Carry your own cross
- Forsake all
- Count the cost... *Exactly what the 2nd disciple wasn't doing*

That sounds expensive because it is.

## **DON'T MISS THIS...**

Jesus is NOT explaining in Luke how to be “justified” OR GET SAVED!

**He is explaining how to follow Him.**

**POINT:** FOLLOWING after Jesus is what the Bible calls discipleship OR referred to theologically as the SANCTIFICATION PROCESS.

## **LET ME EXPLAIN IT TO YOU THIS WAY....**

Salvation is like being born into a family.

While discipleship is learning “POTTY TRAINING”. (Jeff and Kelsy)

Birth is free.

Growth is costly.

A baby does *nothing* to be born.

But maturity requires *discipline, surrender, and “Potty” training.*

**You do not become a son by growth—**

**you grow because you are a son.**

**True saving faith produces transformation BY HOLY SPIRIT.**

Not perfection!!!—*but direction* that draws a heart toward Christ Jesus.

**James 2:17** “*Faith without works is dead...*”. **PAUL: Romans 7**

**Works don't save ANYONE...** *But saved people change and are drawn by His Holy Spirit to follow after Jesus*

## **III. THE TEN DISCIPLESHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

**(Here are the 10 Qualifications Jesus gave FOR BELIEVERS)**

A true disciple of Jesus **WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** must:

**1. Deny self** **2. Take up his cross daily** **3. Follow Christ fully** **4. Love Jesus above family** **5. Forsake all possessions** **6. Abide in His Word** **7. Love other believers** **8. Bear spiritual fruit** **9. Be Baptized of your own choice** **10. Obedience to Jesus Commands**

**1. Deny self**

**Luke 9:23a** *And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself..*

Come TO Me VS. Come AFTER Me

**2. Take up his cross daily**

**Luke 9:23b** *... and take up his cross daily...*

**3. Follow Christ fully**

**Luke 9:23c** *...and follow after me.*

**4. Love Jesus above family**

**Luke 14:26** *“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

**5. Forsake all possessions**

**Luke 14:33** *“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*

**6. Abide in His Word**

**John 8:31** *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

**7. Love other believers**

**John 13:35** *“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**8. Bear spiritual fruit**

**John 15:8** *“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

**9. Be Baptized of your own choice**

**Matthew 28:19** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”*

**10. Obedience to Jesus Commands**

**Matthew 28:20** *teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

## **IV. Believer/Disciple Final Relationship**

Salvation is:

**Christ for you**

Discipleship is:

**You for Christ**

Salvation is receiving the cross.

Discipleship is carrying the cross.

Salvation is trusting IN Jesus death/resurrection.

Discipleship is surrendering your life to Jesus.

Salvation is coming TO Jesus.

Discipleship is following AFTER Jesus.

**Salvation costs you nothing, because it cost Jesus everything.**

**Discipleship costs you everything, because Jesus is worth it.**

## **SO HERE IS MY PERSONAL CHALLENGE**

The church is full of admirers, BUT, Jesus is looking for followers.

Many want resurrection life, HOWEVER, Few want crucified living.

Many want heaven, BUT, Few want holiness.

Many want forgiveness, YET, Few want surrender.

**The question is not:**

“Do I want Jesus as Savior?” The real question is:

**“Will I bow to Him as Lord?”**

Because the same Jesus who says:

**“Come unto Me”**

also says:

**“Take up your cross and follow Me.”**

**Both are true AND Both are necessary.**

**I think we can ALL AGREE, The Cost of Discipleship is worth it,  
Because Jesus is WORTH IT.....AMEN?**