

The Cost of following Christ

The Gospel of Mark 8:34-38 part one

Introduction

Mark 8:34-38 *34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 35 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? 37 "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."*

Matthew 10 and Luke 14 *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it* **Mark 10:21** *One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me* **John 12:24** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.*

#1 The COST of following Christ is for _____ believer

34a *And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me*

Romans 3:11 *There is none who seeks for God*

Romans 6:17 *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart ...*

Revelation 2:4-5 *'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first...*

1st The COST is a life of _____ yourself in all things

34b *he must deny himself*

Mark 14:30-31 *Jesus said, ... this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times. But Peter kept ... insisting, 'Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!' 71-72 "he began to curse and swear, 'I do not know this man you are talking about! 'Immediately a rooster crowed And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, 'Before a rooster crows ... you will deny Me three times.' And he began to weep."*

Romans 7:18 *I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh*

Arthur Pink "Growth in grace is growth downward; it is the forming of a lower estimate of ourselves; it is a deepening realization of our nothingness; it is a heartfelt recognition that we are not worthy of the least of God's mercies."

2nd The COST is a daily _____ to DIE for Christ

34c *and take up his cross*

2 Timothy 3:12 *And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*

AW Tozer *The man with a cross no longer controls his destiny; he lost control when he picked up his cross. That cross immediately became to him an all-absorbing interest... No matter what he may desire to do, there is but one thing he can do; that is, move on toward the place of crucifixion.*
Dietrich Bonhoeffer *"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die,"*

1 Peter 4:12-14 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you*

Matthew 10:24-25 *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. ... If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!"*

3rd The COST is the will to _____ Christ in everything

34d *and follow Me*

Hebrews 12:14 *Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.*

John 10:27 *My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me*

1 John 2:6 *The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*

Matthew 7:21 *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. John 8:31b* *If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine. Romans 1:5 & 16:26* *"obedience of faith" 1 Peter 1:2* *the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood*

1-Do you _____ to follow Christ?

2-Are you trying to have it _____ ways?

3-Will you pursue _____ self?