

Sermon Study Guide



The Cost of Following Jesus

February 21, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

Reflect

What's the most important possession you have that you'll find difficult to give up?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Luke 9:23-27

Discussion Questions

Discipleship is the process by which followers of Jesus become more like Him. It is a way of life that will cost you. Luke 9:23-27 gives us a clear idea of what it costs to follow Jesus and walk in the path of discipleship.

1. **The price of self-denial (v. 23a).** What is the first condition for discipleship? What is self-denial? What was your initial reaction when you were told that you were supposed to give up your own desires and your own will in order to live for Jesus? What have you given up in following Him?
2. What are the two contrasts mentioned in verses 24 and 25? What kind of commitment does discipleship demand according to these verses? Are you willing to let go of something you are holding on to in order to pick up and carry something for the Lord? Why would you give up something you want for yourself now and trust God to provide better things for you?
3. **The price of lifelong responsibility (v. 23b).** What does the cross symbolize? Jesus, who carried a cross to his death, walked in the path of love. How are you identifying with Him? What makes a Christian ashamed of walking with Christ or being called a Christian? How do Christians, instead of being a blessing, become a stumbling block for others to know Christ? How long should your commitment to Christ last?

Why is your daily commitment or re-affirmation of your loyalty to Christ so important?

4. **The price of identifying with Christ (v. 23c).** What does identifying with Christ mean? When does Christian life become inconsistent? What would be the consequence for those who are ashamed of Jesus and His Word (v. 26)? Why could this world not compare to the future glory you will have in Christ? Share how you can loudly proclaim that you are a follower of Jesus.

Respond

In Walk: To walk with Jesus means to pay the price, not of salvation—He already did that on the cross—but of self-denial, lifelong responsibility, and identifying with Christ. If you start paying the price of discipleship now, what would it cost you? Are there things you need to give up or behaviors you need to change? How would giving those up affect your life? If you have been paying the price of discipleship for years, what did you need to give up and what did you gain instead? Was it worth it?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for such a privilege of being able to identify with Christ. To deny myself of what I want for life in order to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is such a difficult thing to do, but thank You because You ensured that I am not alone. You are there to see me through. The rewards of being Your child is incomparable especially since compared with eternity life here on earth is really short. Lord, help me to always be willing to pay the cost so that discipleship will always be a way of life for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.