



Sermon Notes: "The Cost"

Matthew 8:18-22

9.28.25

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS:

1. Discomfort in the cost

- We will have a cost that is specific to us.

2. Comfort in the cost

- We don't need to be disillusioned when our life in Christ becomes messy.

3. Closeness in the cost

- Jesus is teaching us how to relate to Him.

So What?

- The two men's encounter with Jesus, is our encounter with Jesus.
- Measuring God's goodness in Jesus, not by the circumstances that surround me.

ICEBREAKER: *Share about a time when something you thought would be easy or inexpensive ended up costing you more than expected - maybe a home repair project, a "simple" favor for a friend, or a commitment that grew bigger than anticipated. How did you handle the unexpected cost?*

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 8:18-22

2. (verse 20) Jesus told the scribe that "foxes have dens... but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. And in (verse 22) "let the dead bury their own dead" sounds insensitive to modern ears. Why do you think Jesus responded this way? What was he trying to help the man understand? (See also Luke 14:25-33)
3. Pat mentioned that each person's cost is specific to them - what's easy for one person to give up might be a true sacrifice for another. What has following Jesus cost you personally? How has that cost affected your relationship with him? (See also Matthew 19:16-22, Philippians 3:7-8)
4. The sermon suggested there's comfort in knowing upfront that following Jesus will be costly - it's not a "bait and switch." How does this perspective change how you view difficult seasons in your faith journey? Why might God allow us to experience costs rather than making the Christian life comfortable?
5. Pat emphasized measuring God's goodness primarily by salvation in Jesus rather than by our circumstances. How do you practically do this when facing real hardships? What helps you remember God's goodness when circumstances are difficult? (See also Romans 8:28-39, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Deploy:

This week's deployment is Cost Assessment: First, reflect on what following Jesus has already cost you (relationships, opportunities, comfort, etc.) and spend time in prayer thanking God for these costs, asking him to show you how they've drawn you closer to him. Second, examine your current "firsts" - like the man who wanted to bury his father "first," identify what tends to come before your commitment to Jesus. This week, intentionally put Jesus first in one specific area where you've been putting other things ahead of him.

Don't Forget:

- Next Week: OCC Packing Party Oct 5th at 2pm
- Oct 12th All Church F.U.N. Night Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contests!
- Keep praying for our community as we seek to be healers in a hurting world.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for being honest about the cost of following you. Help us not be surprised when discipleship gets difficult.
For those facing real costs right now, remind them that you understand sacrifice - you gave up everything for our salvation.
Help us measure your goodness by what you've done for us, not by how comfortable our circumstances are. When following you costs us something precious, help us trust that you're drawing us closer.
Give us wisdom to put you first and courage to count the cost and still follow.
In the name of the one who paid the ultimate cost for us. Amen.