

# But What Does It Cost?

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes  
Based on the Sermon of Bob Jones  
09-28-2025*

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather today to seek Your truth and grow closer to You. Open our hearts to understand the cost and joy of following Jesus. Guide our discussion, fill us with Your Spirit, and help us apply Your Word to our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

*Share a time when you gave up something valuable (time, money, comfort) for something you thought was worth it. What made it worth the cost?*

## Key Scripture

**John 10:10 (ESV)** – [Sarah] reads aloud:  
*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

## Sermon Summary

The sermon "But What Does It Cost?" challenges us to move beyond seeing Jesus as mere "fire insurance" to escape hell. Using the imagery of four chairs—representing different spiritual states (On Fire, Lukewarm, Religious but Lost, Far from God)—the message explores why Jesus came: to bring abundant life, call us to repentance, free us from sin, and make us new. Through **Matthew 13:44–46**, we learn that following Jesus costs everything—our comfort, control, and commitment—but the treasure of His kingdom is worth it. True surrender leads to joy and transformation, like gold refined in fire, reflecting Jesus' image in us. Along FCC's Follow-Connect-Contribute pathway, this calls us to follow Jesus fully, connect in community, and contribute by living transformed lives.

## Discussion Points

### Point 1: The Kingdom Is Worth Everything

- **Scripture: Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV)** – [James] reads aloud:  
*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

- **Summary:** Jesus compares His kingdom to a treasure so valuable that it's worth giving up everything to gain it. Whether stumbling upon it or searching for it, the response is the same: joyfully surrendering all. This challenges us to see Jesus as the ultimate treasure, worth more than our comfort or possessions. At FCC, this aligns with *Follow*—choosing Jesus above all else.
- **Questions:**
  1. What's something in your life (time, habits, priorities) that might be hard to "sell" to fully follow Jesus? Why?
  2. How can we help each other recognize the "surpassing worth" of Jesus in our daily lives?

## Point 2: Following Jesus Requires Daily Surrender

- **Scripture: Luke 9:23 (ESV)** – [Emily] reads aloud:  
*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*
- **Summary:** Jesus calls us to daily surrender—denying our own control and choosing His way, even when it's uncomfortable. This isn't a one-time decision but a lifestyle of commitment. Like the gym membership illustration, we can't just "join the club" and expect transformation without showing up. At FCC, this ties to *Connect*—staying accountable in community to live out this daily choice.
- **Questions:**
  1. What does "taking up your cross daily" look like in your current season of life?
  2. How can our Life Group support you in making daily choices to follow Jesus?

## Point 3: Surrender Leads to Transformation

- **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)** – [Michael] reads aloud:  
*"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*
- **Summary:** True surrender to Jesus transforms us, like gold refined in fire. It's not just about avoiding sin but becoming a new creation that reflects Jesus' image. This transformation is the fruit of a life fully given to Him, aligning with FCC's *Contribute*—living out a changed life that impacts others.
- **Questions:**
  1. Where have you seen God refining or transforming you recently? What was the cost?
  2. How can we encourage each other to embrace the refining process, even when it's uncomfortable?

## Wrap-Up

Reflect on the “chair” you’re sitting in today. Are you on fire for Jesus, lukewarm, religious but not surrendered, or far from God? The treasure of Jesus’ kingdom is worth everything, and He invites us to surrender daily with joy. As a group, let’s commit to helping each other move toward Chair 1—fully surrendered and transformed.

## Challenge

This week, identify one area (comfort, control, or commitment) where you can surrender more to Jesus. Take a practical step—like setting aside time for prayer, serving someone, or letting go of a distraction—and share your experience with the group next week.

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the treasure worth everything. Help us to see Your surpassing worth and surrender daily to follow You. Give us courage to let go of comfort and control, trusting You to transform us. May our lives reflect You as we follow, connect, and contribute in Your kingdom. In Your name, Amen.