



## “The First Cost of the Calling” Week 3

**Big Idea:** Heroes are shaped when they step into God’s calling and choose to keep going, even when it immediately costs them something.

### **Main Scriptures**

**Nehemiah 2: 9-10** “So I went to the governors... When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite heard of it, they were greatly disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.” Nehemiah left comfort and favor. The second he obeyed and headed to rebuild the wall—opposition hit. Sermon Title: The First Cost of the Calling

**Hebrews 12:1** “...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Courage isn’t just starting—it’s the thousand ordinary days you keep going when it hurts. Soldiers endured months and years. Calling is proven in the staying.

### **1. OPENING**

Happy Memorial Day weekend.

Today we remember those who gave everything—men and women who didn’t come home so we could live free. Freedom always costs something.

Your calling will too.

### **2. SETUP: PURPOSE HAS A PRICE**

Everyone wants purpose, but few expect the cost.

We want impact without interruption, platform without pushback.

Nehemiah shows us: the moment you say “yes” to God, the bill comes due—often immediately.

### **3. OPPOSITION: THE FIRST COST**

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Truth: Opposition is often the first confirmation that your calling matters.

No resistance? Maybe no significance.

Your marriage, ministry, addiction battle, or workplace truth will face the same “greatly disturbed” response. Don’t be shocked. It’s confirmation.

#### **4. SACRIFICE: THE CORE OF CALLING**

**John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Today we honor soldiers who lived this out—for people they’d never meet.

Love is proven by what you’re willing to give up.

If your calling costs nothing, it changes nothing.

#### **5. COURAGE: THE COST TO CONTINUE**

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#### **6. LEGACY: FROM HONOR TO RESPONSIBILITY**

Remembering isn’t enough. The best way to honor sacrifice is to live with courage.

Application: Teach the next generation that doing what is right will cost something—but it is always worth it.

#### **7. PERSONAL RESPONSE**

Question: Where is God calling you that you’ve been avoiding because of the cost?

- Forgiving the undeserving?
- Stepping into leadership?
- Having the hard conversation?
- Saying “yes” after years of “maybe later”?

Prayer: “God, give me courage to say yes—even when it costs. Give me perseverance. Help me run the race. Amen.”

#### **8. GOSPEL CLOSE**

Jesus didn't avoid the cost—He embraced the cross. His death paid for your forgiveness. His resurrection gives you power to keep going.

If you've never trusted Jesus, today is the day. Slip your hand up or come forward. We'll pray with you.

## **CLOSING**

- Calling always costs... but quitting costs more.
- The price may be high, but the purpose is higher.
- We remember their sacrifice—now we live with courage.