

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Luke 9:57-62



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The encounter narrated in the passage accounts for Jesus' interaction with three people about the call and the cost of following Him. The first person represents a category of people who are amazed at the greatness of God but ignorant of what it costs and the challenges that come with following Him. This group of people is there for the ups and will not stay when things stop going smoothly. It goes hand in hand with loyalty, some people are there for a season to get what they want, and it seems like loyalty. Once they have what they want, they move on and shift loyalties.

Reading 1 Corinthians 4:2, we see that faithfulness and loyalty are essential qualities that propel you into revelation and depth. With all the man's excitement, Jesus' response was to sober him up. Following Him requires a sober mind, knowing that your yes is a forever thing. He doesn't force His lordship on you; it's our yes that does so. Therefore nothing is forced from His side; He operates within the framework of our submission, commitment, faithfulness, and obedience. Obedience and submission go beyond our excitement, His command can come as a disruption, but it superimposes the current endeavor.

His will should always be a priority and should outweigh our ambitions. Surrender becomes difficult when there is a difference in priorities (conflict of interest). We could be fixated on attaining wealth, yet God wants us to leave that and focus on souls. So we need to ask ourselves, How much are we willing to give up for Christ? Is it just lip service, or are we willing to follow through - Something beyond the momentary feeling?

Matthew 10:34-39

The truth that is least spoken about in churches today is that following Christ comes with a cost. There is a price to pay for following Christ. Saying yes puts you in a position to lose everything yet gain more than you can ever imagine. When we are preoccupied with the things of life, it makes it hard to serve God. There's so much to lose. However, all that is lost will be regained in quality. He makes provision for the losses and adds no sorrow to it.



The second and third person represents a group of people who are aware of the cost but delay the mission because they have a current need to fulfill. They hold back because they want to be fully ready, but the truth is that waiting for that moment of readiness is a waste of time, a mere illusion. The concept of wanting to be fully ready before you commit will cause you to delay the work that needs to be done now.

There is a common denominator amongst all the three people in the passage: excuses. Excuses can create enough 'false' evidence to prevent you from doing what is supposed to be done. There's no excuse good enough not to serve God now. All the reasons we can give fall shy of the importance of serving God. Most of the time, excuses arise due to uncertainties because security is one of humanity's greatest needs.

Here, Jesus presents the uncertainties to them because He wants to sober their excitement. Furthermore, He wants to be their only certainty. He wants them to know that it's not going to be easy; however, He guarantees that His presence will assure that all will go well, but we need to put our confidence in Him. Just a child trusts His father; we should trust God in the same manner. Growth with God is directly linked to our childlike character. Therefore following Christ needs you to overlook all possible excuses and weigh the cost because it isn't a matter of "one day I will," but one of urgency.

Being in the right location at the right time is what will bring about your provision.

