

The First Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 7, 2025
“On the Way to Jerusalem ~ The Cost of Discipleship”
Luke 9:57-62

INTRODUCTION

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

By “setting His face” toward Jerusalem, Jesus demonstrates His unwavering resolve to _____ God’s plan of salvation.

“I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.” (Isaiah 50:7)

Despite the _____ of the Transfiguration, there’s no turning back, and Jesus is fully _____ to the path that leads to His suffering, death, and resurrection.

His focus _____. His teachings become more _____, His interactions more confrontational, and His call to discipleship more demanding. Jesus knows that opposition will _____, yet He presses forward, fully _____ of what awaits Him in Jerusalem.

It’s important to understand that Jesus’ journey isn’t just a movement toward a city, but toward the very _____ of God’s plan for salvation.

Wherever we’re faced with a major life decision, it’s important that we count the _____.

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’” (Luke 14:28-30)

It’s important that we understand this when it comes to matters of _____ because there’s a cost that has to be calculated before we can begin to follow Jesus.

Jesus isn’t calling us to a life of _____, but to a life of spiritual warfare. He isn’t calling us to a life in which our happiness is undisturbed, but to a life in which we could _____ everything—except Him.

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” (Matthew 16:25)

The cost of discipleship is _____ of everything for the sake of Christ. Jesus isn’t ready to simply accept the _____ expression of a person’s desire to follow Him as an indication that they’re actually ready to walk the road and pay the cost of discipleship. He wants to _____ their hearts.

THREE CONVERSATIONS

Conversation #1: Following Jesus at the expense of our own _____.
“I will follow you wherever You go’...And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’” (Luke 9:57-58)

Jesus is saying that following Him will not mean comfort, _____, and wealth.

Jesus knows the _____ of people, He knows the heart of this person who said he would follow Him no matter what, and He’s identifying a spiritual _____ that this guy will surely have because he didn’t count the cost.

No matter where we are on the economic spectrum, everyone here this morning has _____ than most people who have ever lived in the history of this world, not to mention the majority of people living in the world today.

The question we have to ask ourselves is how much does our desire to stay comfortable, at ease, and to enjoy the wealth that we possess keep us off from fully _____ to Jesus, and throwing ourselves wholly into the work of the kingdom?

We need to consider this in relation to the way we use our _____. How much of our income, wealth, and resources can we really say are devoted to the work of the _____?

Does the way that we use what we’ve been given indicate that we are disciples who have truly _____ of following Jesus?

“From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” (Luke 12:48)

Conversation #2: Following Jesus at the expense of our earthly _____.
“Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” (Luke 9:59)

We need to understand that in Jesus’ day, burial was a process that could take up to a _____ to complete.

This process was considered to be part of the command to _____ one's father or mother all the way up to, and even after death.

"Let the dead bury their dead." (Luke 9:60)

Although Jesus' words seem blunt and out of place to us, we need to understand that He's deliberately trying to _____ this guy up, not because He isn't compassionate, or because He doesn't want us to care about our families or go to funerals or weddings. He's doing it because He's emphasizing that one of the things that we need to count the cost of in discipleship is just how important _____ is.

Those who are more focussed on _____ concerns and not the things of God are "spiritually dead," and can handle earthy matters, like burial, while those who are fully _____ and alive in Him can focus on the work of the Kingdom.

As hard as His words may be to hear, we need to understand that counting the cost of discipleship is about saying that Jesus is more _____ than anyone or anything else in our life.

So often in life we come to a _____ in the road—to a point of decision—where we have to ask ourselves: "Am I going to follow comfort, custom, or convention, or am I going to follow Jesus?"

Conversation #3: Following Jesus at the _____ of everything else in life.

"I will follow you Lord, but first let me say farewell to those at my home. Let me go back and say goodbye to my mother and my father.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'" (Luke 9:61-62)

You may remember a similar story in the OT—in 1 Kings 19:19-21—describing the prophet Elijah calling Elisha to follow him as his _____.

Elijah responded this way because he knew that Elisha was _____ to following him.

Elisha was making a total and clean _____ with his past, just like the disciples who left their nets and boats behind to follow Jesus.

Why does Jesus do the exact _____ with the man in this third encounter?

Jesus responds this way because He's _____ than Elijah.

Although, as we saw last week in the story of the Transfiguration, Elijah was the greatest of the prophets, he was still just a _____. Jesus, however, is the long-awaited _____. And more than that, He was God in the flesh, and the Saviour of the world.

Jesus isn't talking so much about giving up _____, which, of course, we have to do in the process of following Him, but about giving up things in this world that, in and of themselves, are _____, wonderful, and right, for us to appreciate and even desire, but that can also _____ our commitment to Him.

The call to give everything up for the sake of Christ isn't (necessarily) a call to asceticism or to a _____ lifestyle.

"Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive many times more in this time and in the age to come." (Luke 18:29)

In other words, the rewards of following Jesus far _____ the cost.

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To be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ means giving up everything because we _____ Him above everything else.

Thankfully, He will not ask us to _____ more for Him than He promises to give back to us. However, what we desired on the other side of discipleship may be very different from the _____ He gives back to us on this side of discipleship.

If Jesus really is our _____ then we won't mind giving up anything and everything else for Him. However, if we find it hard to give up our other treasures, chances are Jesus isn't the treasure He ought to be, chances are our heart is _____.

Jesus wants disciples whose hearts are _____, who've made the decision that He's more _____ than anyone or anything else, and who are willing to give everything up to _____ Him

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**Have you counted the cost?
Is Jesus your treasure?
How committed are you to following Him?**