

A Messiah who Costs Everything (Matthew 8:18-22)

Introduction: "Follow your heart" vs. the cost of discipleship

I. 8:18: Teaching in the context of a narrative about Jesus' miracles

About to set out to sea to avoid the great crowds

Faith necessarily includes discipleship (faith without works is dead)

Christ's (and the church's) main mission is not to heal, but to make disciples

II. 8:19-20: A zealous scholar

A remarkable offer?

Teacher rather than *Lord*

Telling rather than asking

Jesus' even more remarkable reply

Counter-intuitive (Jesus answers his "wherever" with *no "where"*)

Sobers his apparent zeal

Zealous words do not always demonstrate the heart of a disciple

(The poverty of Jesus)

Count the cost of discipleship before you begin to follow

III. 8: 21-22 A timid son

A less-than remarkable offer

He seems to have a very legitimate priority,

but NOTHING ought to take priority over following Jesus

Jesus' remarkable reply

Discipleship is more important than family (Luke 14:25-26)

Am I really called to *hate* my family? (Matthew 10:37)

Jesus is not an enemy to family, unless ...

Don't allow anything to postpone your following Jesus

IV. The cost and the Treasure

The cost – Luke 14:27-23, 9:23-26

Are you prepared for the cost of discipleship?

If not – heed the warning of Revelation 3:15-16

Repent and experience the promise of Revelation 3:19-20

The Treasure (if you miss this, the cost of discipleship sounds 'legalistic')

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – "cheap grace" vs. "costly grace"

Matthew 13:44, Philippians 4:7-8