

## **Following Jesus 9.25.16**

Luke 9:51-52, 57-62 (plus Matt. 8:18-22, the cost of discipleship)

“Following Jesus isn’t something you can do at night where no one notices. It’s a twenty-four-hour-a-day commitment that will interfere with your life. That’s not the small print—that’s a guarantee.” – Kyle Idleman

What does following Jesus mean to you? For so many, we have branded the phrase “following Jesus” with our own definition based upon our culture and our convenience, as opposed to what it meant to the early disciples and more importantly, to the biblical view of Jesus Himself.

Luke 14:25-33

The cost of service (14:26).

The cost of sacrifice (14:27).

The cost of self-assessment (14:28–30).

The cost of strategy (14:31–33)

Matt 10:37-39 What things do I need to give up to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

Mark 8:34-38 What did taking up the cross mean in Jesus’ day?

What does commitment look like for you? Are you following Jesus with this type of devotion? *How are you taking up your cross?*

To many, this means fitting Jesus into a convenient compartment of our life, not Jesus being the center of our life.

*The calling of the disciples:* Mark 1:16-20 Luke 5:11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him. NKJV

From Luke 9:57-62

1. Describe the hasty scribe and cost of following Jesus.
2. Talk about the reluctant disciple and the price to pay.
3. The danger of indecisive discipleship. **Looking back means longing back.** Divided hearts

All three wanted discipleship to fit in neatly with his life—to neatly conform to prior commitments. Jesus brushed them aside. It is dangerous to teach and misleading to believe that Jesus can fit in with your life and your plans. Those in scripture who believed so left disappointed & disconnected. (the rich, young ruler, Matthew 19) True discipleship cannot be practiced only when it is convenient for us! You can’t just have Jesus as part of your life, it doesn’t work that way, folks!

Discuss “Covered with the dust of the rabbi”. Let thy house be a meeting-house for the wise; and powder thyself in the dust of their feet; and drink their words with thirstiness.

“Get so close to the teacher that his teaching, his mannerism, his character become who you are”! Get his dust all over your clothes! Church, how dusty are you from our Rabbi, Jesus? Are you sitting at the feet of Jesus, spending time in His presence?

Matthew 26:57-58, also in Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18

Following Jesus means many things to many people. Close or from afar, some of us permit distance in our relationship because we prefer the approval of people more than the approval of God. We routinely follow Jesus at a distance and utilize him only when we have needs.

(Rich young ruler) Have you really counted the cost? For the rich young ruler, it cost him too much. It will cost you! It cost Jesus everything. How desperate are you in your pursuit of Jesus?

“Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It’s not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us.” – David Platt

Why is it difficult for us to follow Jesus? What kind of commitment does Jesus require from his followers? List the rewards of sacrificing one’s life to follow Jesus. Explain what it means to give up your life daily to follow Jesus.