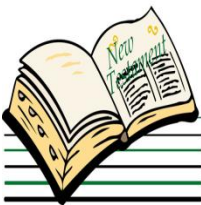


Sermon Notes



Title: "What It Means to Follow Christ"

Text: Matthew 8:18-22

Theme: Following Christ is not always easy and can be very difficult and inconvenient at times. However, no allegiance must be greater than faithfulness to Christ and His kingdom. The cost is high in following Christ. The cost is greater in not following Christ.

I. The Guy with _____ - _____ in His
_____ (18-20)

II. The Guy with _____ (21-22)

A. Following Christ is _____
_____ and at times
_____.

B. The time for total commitment is _____, not
_____. Christ does not recognize any
_____ or commitment that
_____ with following Him.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Where was Jesus intending to go (v. 18)?
2. Who was the first fellow who approached Jesus? What does his descriptive label mean (v. 19a)?
3. What did this person say to Jesus (v. 19b)?
4. How did Jesus answer this person (v. 20)?
5. What did Jesus mean by this answer?
6. Who else approached Jesus (v. 21a)?
7. What did this person say to Jesus (v. 21b)?
8. What did this person indicate by this statement?
9. What did Jesus say in response (v. 22)?
10. What did Jesus mean by this answer?
11. What is discipleship?
12. How does Jesus' answer to the first guy address his misconception about discipleship?
13. How does Jesus' answer to the second guy correct his assumptions?
14. What are some common misconceptions people entertain today about what it means to follow Christ?
15. What do you think are some things (attitudes, actions, situations) that stunt your commitment to Christ?
16. In what ways could you be a more committed follower of Christ?
17. Evaluate Jesus' response to the second guy. Callous? Sensitive? Realistic? Tactful? How authoritative?
18. Do you find anything inconvenient about following Jesus?
19. How difficult or stressful has it been for you to follow Christ as a dedicated disciple?
20. Is there anything interfering right now with your commitment to follow Christ as His disciple?