
Application Groups

What is Faith?

Part 4 Faith is Counting the Cost

Good News Church

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Overview

Have you ever considered the cost of following Jesus Christ? He called his disciples, including us, to ‘come, follow me.’ He also told his disciples to “count the cost” at the same time he told them to “take up your cross” and follow him. So, what is the cost of following Jesus? Is there a cost? What does it cost you to follow Jesus Christ? What have you had to give up? What have you gained?

Disciples are continually counting the cost

Counting the cost is not about deciding whether or not to begin following Jesus. It is about considering the cost of continuing to follow him wherever he leads us. Will you follow him into the boat? Will you follow him when your comfort zone gets the squeeze? Will you follow him to minister to your neighbors who have a decidedly different lifestyle than yours? Will you follow him without knowing all the details and direction of the journey? True disciples do follow. They carry their cross. They do so consciously, committing to follow him whatever the cost.

Counting the cost:

- ✓ When Jesus leads us to fulfill his purposes, he always leads us away from something: what has he led you away from?
- ✓ When is the last time you actually paid a price for following Jesus Christ? What was it? Why?
- ✓ Do you stay focused on where/what he has led you away from or what/where he is leading? Why?
- ✓ What daily decisions require you to intentionally live by faith in Christ?
- ✓ What does it mean to “carry your cross” as you follow Jesus?
- ✓ What have you had to give up in order to follow him?
- ✓ Does following Jesus affect your comfort, your convenience, your attitudes, your desires, your expectations, your priorities? How?

Key Passage: Luke 14:27

“Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Mark 4:40

Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Application Questions:

How (in what way) do you consider the cost of following Jesus?

Where (or into what) has he led you that made you hesitate or question him?

What are your expectations of following Jesus? Smooth sailing, easy street, popularity, power?

Or do you expect something else? Why or why not?

Talk about what it would look like to count the cost in your daily life, in your ministry.

What will you do about what you have learned? Do you need to unlearn anything?