

The Cost of Biblical Christian Discipleship

Luke 9:23-26 [NASB]

²³ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. ²⁵ For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

In calling his first disciples, Jesus made certain they understood the cost of following him. He said that God's kingdom, for God's people, must be the first priority. To be sent by God is to be sent into hardship. On the front end of it all, he calls us to deeply accept that as part of the deal. Jesus prepared the twelve to go out. He prepared them for hardship, but he gave them his power. He does the same for us. It'll be hard, but we'll be with Jesus, and doing anything with Jesus, no matter the hardship, is a privilege we do not earn.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you done something that really cost you something or had to sacrifice one pursuit for another?
2. How would summarize what Jesus is saying in this passage?
3. When has following Jesus cost you something relationally, materially, or in terms of suffering?