

Sermon Title: The Way of the Cross: Count the Cross

Sermon Scripture: Luke 14:25-33



Sermon Discussion Guide (3/15)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Luke 14:25-33 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What is the significance of Jesus's speech being addressed to the crowds rather than to His disciples? What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the crowds?

Why does Jesus say that one cannot follow Him unless they hate their family (v.26) or give up everything (v. 33)? What do these verses reveal to us about our priorities and ultimate devotion?

What does the story about a man building a tower and a king fighting a battle reveal to us about counting the cost and knowing what something will take? What might happen if someone does not count the cost before they begin following Jesus?

Read Philippians 3:7-8. How do these verses challenge the way you measure success or failure in your own life? How do they reinforce or add to Jesus's teaching from Luke 14?

Application

We are called to count the cost of following Jesus. In our world today, what are some of the costs of following Jesus? How do you experience these costs or sacrifices in your own life?

How can you know when something in your life (a relationship, a possession, an aspect of your identity) becomes more important than following Jesus? In your life, when have you valued or been devoted to something more than Jesus?

One of the questions we are called to ask is whether we possess things or our possessions possess us. How would you answer this question? In what ways can the draw of possessions tempt you to value them over following Jesus?

This week, the abiding practice is to reflect on where your discipleship has been convenient rather than costly. How would you answer this question? How is God calling you to step into deeper obedience? What prayer might God be inviting you to pray so that you have the courage to carry out this act of obedience?

Prayer

Almighty God, You call us not just to admire You but to follow You. Give us the courage to count the cost honestly and the faith to trust that You are worth giving up everything for. Help us to surrender our priorities, our possessions, and our sense of control to You. Shape us into disciples who walk the way of the cross with obedience and devotion. Amen.