

August 27, 2023

The Cost of Following Jesus

Pastor Brian Greenleaf



Matthew 8:18-22

1. **You can only _____ authority when you are _____ authority (vs 5-13)**
 - ✓ When under authority, you don't need to see to believe
2. **Do not get too _____ to this world (vs 18-20)**
 - ✓ Our citizenship is in Heaven (1 Peter 2:11)
 - ✓ We need to live with eternity in mind
3. **The right time to follow Jesus is _____ (vs 21-22)**
 - ✓ Following Jesus is not a matter of convenience
 - ✓ Following Jesus Christ is what He requires, not just professing belief in Him. We must be willing to give up worldly, material, and deadly pursuits and instead pursue the Lord with all of our hearts.
4. **Jesus is never _____, _____, or _____ (vs 23-27)**
 - ✓ He has everything under control
 - ✓ He is close to us (Psalm 89:8-9, 139:1-12)

"In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."
~ Jesus Christ – Luke 14:33

"There is no cost you can pay in following Jesus that won't be made up a thousandfold in the resurrection." ~ John Piper

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Sermon Talks

1. What caught your attention in this week's message? Was there something you had never heard before or something you had a question about?
2. What do you think about the statement, "You can only recognize authority when you are under authority?" Do you believe that is true?
 - What aspect of Jesus' character did the centurion understand?
 - What was the relationship between the centurion's faith and Jesus healing his servant?
3. In verses 18-20, Jesus was informing the scribe that true followers of Him should not get too attached to this world.
 - What did Jesus mean by this?
 - What is the potential cost you will face by following Jesus? What does Jesus call us to sacrifice?
4. Verses 21-22 speak of convenience.
 - Was the man's request a reasonable one? Why or why not?
 - What did the man's request really mean? What did it say about his priorities?
 - What does this illustration reveal about the potential cost you will face by following Jesus?
5. Read Matthew 10:37, Luke 9:23-27, 14:25-33, Philippians 3:7-8
 - What do these verses say of the cost of following Jesus?
6. In verses 23-27, we are reminded that Jesus is always in control and with us.
 - What did the act of Jesus rebuking the winds and the waves say about Him?
 - How can this story bring encouragement to us in our difficult situations?

Pray about it: Meditate on God's Word (Matthew 8:18-22) and this week's message.

Adoration: What can I praise God for in light of what this teaches me?

Confession: What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving: What can I thank God for in light of what He has done?

Supplication: What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?