

Matthew 8:18-22
The Test of Discipleship
January 27, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - *What does it cost to be a true follower of Jesus Christ?*

Romans 6:23 - The wages of sin is death but the *gift* of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 14 - "If anyone comes to Me and doesn't hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, He *can't be My disciple*. And whoever doesn't bear his cross and come after Me *can't be My disciple*... Whoever of you doesn't forsake all that he has *can't be My disciple*."

John 6 - A huge crowd followed Him... Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, you're seeking Me... because you ate your fill of the loaves."

1. The Test of Relocation

John 6:60, 66 - On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a *hard teaching*. Who can accept it?" From that time on, *many* of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.

2. The Test of Comfort and Prosperity

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John 7:53 - Everyone went to his own house, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 7:14 - Narrow is the gate and *difficult* is the way that leads to life.

Billy Graham: *"Jesus invited us, not to a picnic, but to a pilgrimage; not to a frolic, but to a fight. He offered us, not an excursion, but an execution. Our Savior said that we would have to be ready to die to self, sin and the world."*

Luke 8:14 - The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by *the cares and riches and pleasures of this life*. So they never grow into maturity.

3. The Test of Priorities

Luke 9:60 - "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

The Cost of Discipleship: "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It's the pearl of great price that the merchant will sell all his goods to buy. It's the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it's the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows Him.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it's grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It's costly because it costs a man his life, and it's grace because it gives a man the only true life. It's costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies

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the sinner. Above all, it's costly because it cost God the life of His Son... and what has cost God much can't be cheap for us.”
