



The Gospel According to Luke

Wk. 44 “Cost of Discipleship”

By Pastor Jody May

Luke 9:18-27 ESV

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ

¹⁸Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” ¹⁹And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” ²⁰Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”

Jesus Foretells His Death

²¹And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²²saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²³And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Introduction:

So, being raised by my mother I have this weird quirk, I like to shop. Now mind you, it's not like all the time but I like to window shop but only if I can get something out of it. I took the girls shopping yesterday and I was rewarded for my endeavor when I found a \$5 t-shirt. I didn't need it, but something happened when I saw it. **The cost of the item made me want it.** There were other items there, better quality, things that I needed more, but the cost of that t-shirt for \$5 I could not pass it up! For me, especially when it comes to clothing, what dictates whether I buy a thing or not is the cost.



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Maybe you're different, perhaps you buy things based on need, or quality, or rarity and yes those are things I take in mind, but at the end of the day I am about the fine line between quality and cost. I think it is safe to say that if you offered someone whatever it is that they wanted to buy more in all the world, if you gave them the option to pay less they would, I

I have also found in traditional evangelical culture that many preachers/evangelists have sold the offer of Salvation the same way. With exclams of its' free, it doesn't cost you anything, just ask Jesus to save you, to come in your heart, and you're in. But that's very far from the truth. Salvation involves Jesus paying for your penalty of sin, but it also demands something from you, your **LOYALTY**. Not the type of loyalty that you see with sport fans, or brand fanatics, or even earthly marriages but the type of **LOYALTY** that comes from a **Covenant Relationship**:

“I will be your God and you will be my people.” To quote Gen. 17:7; Ex. 6:7; Ez. 34:24; 36:28; Jer. 7:23; 30:22; 31:33

So, there is something I am asking the church to do today, while I am gone the next month. Bill, the Deacons, and all the ministry leaders are taking us on a little Journey through what do small groups look like at HCC while exploring what does it look like for everyone to practice servant discipleship and I want you to ask yourself this question:

Are you ready to embrace the Cost of Discipleship, are you ready to embrace being a Highlander?

Today, let's look at how Jesus describes this Covenantal Relationship/the Cost associated with it to discover – What is the Cost of Discipleship?

1. Confession of a Disciple.

What does discipleship cost you? Coming to the right conclusions about Jesus of which there is only one...



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Started pointing this out two weeks back w/Herod – “Who’s this man?”
It’s the ultimate question.

Peter now finally gives the answer:

²⁰Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “**The Christ of God.**”

Christ is just the Greek Word here for Messiah. The Cost of Discipleship begins with acknowledging for yourself who Jesus is, He’s the Son of God. That’s better said than done though. Let’s take a look at how Peter arrived to this conclusion.

In summery I just want to point out what has happened since the feeding of the 5,000 from **Matthew 14-16 (& Mark 8)**

Right after feeding the 5,000 and with the Apostles renewed, the crowds still want more so Jesus sends them away across the sea again, disperses the crowds, goes up the mountain to pray, comes back down, and oh yeah, walks across water to catch up with the boys. They see Jesus, Peter gets bold and walks on water. Then...

Jesus heals a deaf/mute man and a blind man, and even helps a Gentile, that doesn’t quite get who Jesus is, but gets what He can do and Jesus casts out a demon from their child.

Jesus throughout these chapters is also having arguments with the Pharisees where He has now gone on the offensive, attacks how they follow their own traditions and condemns their law breaking. He then warns the crowds about them in earshot of the Pharisees and warns the disciples not to heed any of their religious teachings for they are all tainted with self-righteousness. He tells them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, don’t let them taint what I am teaching you about the True bread that comes from Heaven, me, and the way that I provide to get to God, my works not yours.

Then to sandwich all of these events, to show a conclusion to this time He feeds 4,000 people,



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Then He gets a little concerned because after all of that they are questioning what He’s saying,

Matthew 16:8-11 ESV

⁸“O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? ⁹Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹⁰Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? ¹¹How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Then our Lord gets to the next town, and wants to see if anyone is getting what He’s teaching.

Matthew 16:13-16 ESV

¹³ ..., “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

Matthew 16:17 ESV

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Cost of discipleship comes first through **recognizing who you are following**, and then **acknowledging you didn’t figure it out**, it was by Faith alone, by the Grace of God alone. That’s where every disciple has to start, you didn’t figure it out, God graced you with who Jesus is. We need to grasp that the God of the Universe decided not to let you be deaf, dumb, and blind as He was showing in the miracles of Christ, but that your eyes were opened because you were in more need than anyone needing healing from Christ, your spiritual darkness could not be helped, there was no amount of education nor religiosity like the Pharisees could save you. God chose to save you and without Him your lost. The clue to that saving act

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 16:13–15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.



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of Regeneration is that Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ. But as awesome as that is there is more to it, because the devil and demons knew who Christ was when the people didn't and it didn't save them?

Cost of Discipleship also has to do with what is the Cost for God.

2. Cross of Christ

²² “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

This is the first time that Jesus reveals to the boys the plan, almost 3 years have gone by and He finally drops the bombshell on them. Go back and read this week Ps. 22, Is. 53, Zech. 12:13-13:1 and read for yourself what Jesus is reading, and as God to show you the truth of what it will cost Him and accept that it had to be done for you.

Peter can't do it. He's like, *Lord I finally got an answer right, and you spoil my day with you are going to let people kill you!? Not on my watch...*

Matthew 16:23 ESV

²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

What does the Cost of Discipleship cost you when it comes to the Cross of Jesus? One has to accept His death for you making your sin no less than anyone else's’.

Peter wanted to separate himself from the elders and the priests but the priests, the elders, and the Pharisees were a reflection of Peter, the twelve all the disciples, and all of Israel for it was how they wanted to be governed and led. There was no innocence on the part of Peter and there is no innocence for us.

What we have to get over is yes we are guilty of rebellion, yes we would rather be our own boss, yes



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The truth that no one wants to face
Luke 24 is when He opens their eyes to these things.

So, the **cost of Discipleship** is second recognizing your need for the Cross and you were a part of putting Him there. But Jesus is all about making sure it was enough

3. Calling for True Disciples

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and **take up his cross daily** and **follow me**.

1st – Deny oneself; not to act in your own interest.

2nd – Taking up your cross daily; expect the world not to cooperate with you.

3rd – Follow Me; finally pick a side.

The Cost of Discipleship is to associate with what you value most, and understand your life will tell that tale.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the **Father** that first sacrificed His Son for our need of redemption.

Go in the name of the **Son** that gave the perfect sacrifice to satisfy all our needs.



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Go in the name and power of the **Holy Spirit** that helps us to sacrifice for others even when we are tired and whom brings us a deeper satisfaction when we reflect the image of our Lord.