

IT COSTS TO FOLLOW JESUS

Mark 8:27-9:29

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Not clearly understanding certain things can bring about difficulties and mistakes. Some think that since they have believed in Jesus that all is done, all they need to do has been done and Jesus does the rest. It is true that salvation is a once for all thing and that the believer has been born into God's family and will spend eternity in heaven with the Lord. HOWEVER, there is more to being a follower of Jesus than just believing. When one believes in Jesus, he/she is born again and a new life is given, therefore the believer has two lives to live. His/her physical, natural, old sin nature life and the new spiritual life of which Jesus Christ is the example that the believer is to follow. Following Jesus requires a lot from the believer who wants to "follow" Jesus.

I. IT COSTS TO FOLLOW JESUS

1. *Mark 8:27-9:1*
2. How much does it cost to follow Jesus? In plain, simple terms: EVERYTHING!
 - Jesus is NOT the "co-pilot" of the believer's life, He is the PILOT.
 - Jesus speaks of "losing one's life for His sake and the Gospel.."
 - Jesus tells believers that He is the example for them to follow and that He will help them through their difficulties.
 - Whoever one thinks Jesus is will determine if that person is willing to give Jesus everything, even his/her life.
 - WHO do YOU think Jesus is?
3. The disciples were right in who they thought Jesus was, but they were wrong in what they expected.
 - They thought Jesus was going to set up His throne then and that they would be given places of authority and power.
 - They didn't understand what Jesus kept telling them about suffering, a cross, death and a resurrection that He would be undergoing.
 - Jesus was much more and was to do much more than the disciples expected.
4. WHERE Jesus plans on going, WHAT Jesus plans on doing, WHEN Jesus does what He has planned to do, HOW Jesus is going to do what He has planned to do and WHERE Jesus is going to do what He has planned to do is entirely up to Jesus, not His followers.
 - Who would follow someone who has told them that they will be hurt, suffer, and may even die?
5. The price of following Jesus is denial of one's self and costs the follower everything.
 - What has following Jesus cost YOU so far?
 - Are YOU holding back from total commitment to being a follower of Jesus?

II. WHO DOES THE FOLLOWER GIVE HIS/HER ALLEGIANCE TO?

1. *Mark 9:2-9:13*
2. Is Jesus worth YOUR reliance and allegiance?
 - When the three disciples saw Jesus transfigured and Elijah and Moses appearing to talk with Jesus, they wanted to make three "altars," one for Elijah, Moses and Jesus.
 - Their loyalty was not entirely with/upon Jesus.

- They didn't understand what was taking place but then a voice from Heaven told them to LISTEN to what Jesus had to say.
- Who has YOUR attention? Who has YOUR allegiance? Who are YOU listening to? Who are YOU following? Take a good look at YOUR life.
 - ***Galatians 6:14*** - Paul wants only to boast of the cross of Jesus.
 - ***Galatians 2:20*** - Paul said that he had been crucified with Jesus and his life was Jesus' life.
 - ***2 Corinthians 5:14-15*** - Paul said that the love of Jesus controls followers.

3. Believers in Jesus Christ are permanently saved and because of what Jesus did for them, they should give their entire beings back to Jesus as they become FOLLOWERS of Him.

III. HOW DOES ONE FOLLOW JESUS?

1. ***Mark 9:14-29***
2. It is one thing to believe in Jesus but another to become a loyal, devoted follower.
 - What does it cost the believer to follow Jesus? EVERYTHING.
 - How does one then follow Jesus? Actually following Jesus is an entirely different thing.
3. Followers of Jesus must stop relying upon themselves and rely totally, completely on the Lord Jesus.
 - The disciples tried to cast out a demon but could not.
 - Jesus told them to stop relying on themselves and to go to God.
 - They had not learned yet to deny themselves and still felt confident in their own abilities.
 - They wanted to do things "their way..." and that is not following Jesus' example.
 - What about YOUR perspective in how you live your life? Do you live it YOUR WAY or the way the Lord Jesus wants? How often do you talk to Him about what to do or not do? How to do this or that?
4. How is it possible to deny one's own self interests for the sake of the Lord Jesus?
 - The old human nature causes everyone to believe that this world is all that is really important.
 - What do people spend their lives pursuing?
 - The believer in Jesus has two natures to deal with - the one he/she was born in the flesh with which is geared for the things of this world and the other is the new birth upon believing in Jesus that gives the believer another, a new nature, a spiritual one that is geared for things eternal and not of this world which the Lord Jesus Christ is the example to follow in the new nature.
 - Wherever one's most interest lies, that is where he/she will focus and devote his/her life to.
 - So, where does YOUR deepest interest lie? In this world or in the things of the Lord?

CONCLUSION:

1. ***"...For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain..."*** said Paul in ***Philippians 1:21***.
 - What it costs to be a follower of Jesus is EVERYTHING, one's very life.
 - Anything less than a believer's total life is an insult to the Savior who saved him/her.
2. Are YOU a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Are YOU a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? If your life is not totally, entirely surrendered to the Lord Jesus, then YOU are NOT a follower for it costs the believer his/her total life to be a follower.

