

The Cost of Discipleship (Mk. 10:17-31)

I. One of the many struggles faced when sharing the gospel with someone is getting them to see the cost of making the decision to become a disciple of Christ.

II. So often the focus is on the reward that awaits them and they never stop to think about what this decision will cost them.

III. Yet Jesus made it clear, there is a price to be paid if one chooses to walk down this path of discipleship.

Matt. 10:34-38

John 15:18

1 Pet. 2:21

IV. When someone does not understand the price to be paid when choosing to become a disciple, difficulties will arise when they find themselves in situations that are demanding; situations that can eventually cost them a great deal.

V. In times such as these one's faith is put to the test. The question is, will it survive? In these circumstances some disciples turn from the path of righteousness and head back into the world from which they had escaped.

VI. In our lesson today we find Jesus in a situation where he is approached by a young man who seems to be interested in doing what is right in regards to salvation.

a. Jesus tells this man that there is a price to be paid if he chooses to take the path he is seeking.

b. In the end we find he wasn't willing to make the sacrifices necessary to inherit eternal life.

VII. We learn that being a disciple of Jesus will cost us everything that keeps God from being first in our lives.

VIII. It is in the story of the rich young ruler of Mark 10:17-31, that we learn this lesson.

Trans: With that in mind let's first consider the situation which presents itself to Jesus.

1. The rich young ruler

A. Mark 10:17-22

B. From these passages we learn a lot about this man who came to Jesus:

1. We learn something about his religion... legalism.

a. Legalism is a meritorious system of salvation by works.

b. It looks for a list of things that need to be done so that when one has accomplished the list, he is declared just.

c. **Mark 10:17**

d. **Matt. 19:16-18** (note: "what good thing" and "which ones")

e. Notice the rich young ruler does not ask **how** he can have eternal life, as if he is at a loss. He asks **what** he needs to do, as if there is a certain act left unfulfilled.

2. We learn something about why he came to Jesus... to have the Lord confirm what he was already doing.

a. As he saw it he was already keeping the law and he didn't expect Jesus to tell him to do anything beyond the law,

Mark 10:20,

Matt. 19:20

b. If he was seeking eternal life, the answer was found in what Jesus required of him.

c. Yet, he refuses what Jesus told him to do, because that's not what he wanted to hear.

3. We learn something about his priorities... there is something he loved more than truth.

a. We must chose to serve either God or Mammon. We cannot serve two different masters, **Matt. 6:24**

b. Here, the man had two masters speaking to him: God in the flesh told him to sell everything; Mammon told him to hold what he had... he could not do both, so he chose to submit to the one he valued the most.

c. This man went away grieved. As far as he was concerned the choice was too costly.

Appl: There are times when people come to the word of God simply to hear of the promise of eternal life.

Most people see themselves as good people, and they come to Christ asking what thing they are lacking, as if their life morally is good, but they are missing some work to inherit eternal life.

Yet when they find that Jesus desires all that they have, all that would stand in the way of serving God, they flee.

In other words, they are not necessarily seeking to change what they are doing. That's the way this rich young ruler was.

Yet, we learn that being a disciple of Jesus involves more than simply doing a list of things. Being a disciple will cost us everything that keeps God from being first in our lives.

Trans: Following the rich young ruler rejection of His instructions, Jesus explains to His disciples where the problem lies.

2. Discipleship carries a price tag

A. Mark 10:23-31

B. The problem with the rich young ruler wasn't his wealth, but the value he placed on it.

1. Jesus never said it was sinful for this young man to be wealthy. The scriptures never teach this, **1Tim 6:17-19.**

2. But the scriptures do warn of what riches or the pursuit of riches can do,

1Tim. 6:9,10

James 5:1-6

3. What Jesus did was simply state that there was One thing this young man lacked,

Mark 10:21

4. Consider this, to lack something means something is missing, but Jesus tells him to get rid of something.

5. Yet it is in this getting rid of something, that Jesus says he will find the means to get something.

C. Jesus also makes it clear that what this man was lacking can be found in all people,

Mark 10:23 (rich)

Mark 10:24 (children)

D. His disciples understood this, **Mark 10:26**

E. What this rich young ruler needed was to love God above all other things. It was here that he would find eternal life.

F. It's in Peter's words and Jesus' response that we find the solution to the rich young ruler's dilemma, **Mark 10:28-31**

Appl: It's in Peter's last statement and Jesus' response that we find that there is a price to be paid in following Jesus.

It's not about being baptized and then bringing your warm body to the assembly.

It's about giving up everything that has a place in your heart over God... it's about loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

In the rich young ruler we find that some people are just not willing to pay the price.