

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, February 27, 2022

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 61. The Cost of Discipleship – Matthew 8:18-22

Pastor Phillip M Way

Jesus attempts to get across to the other side of the Sea of Galilee after preaching and healing many, and a small crowd follows Him. However, three men express commitment to Christ, but they don't understand that following Jesus will cost you something. See Luke 9:57-62.

- I. Following Jesus Will Cost You – vs. 18-20
 - A. Departing to the Other Side – Mark 4:36
 - B. A Scribe's Profession
 1. "Teacher"
 2. "I will follow You wherever You go."
 3. "A strong professions does not necessarily reflect a strong commitment." – JMacArthur – John 6:64-66
 - C. Jesus Answers with the True Demands of Discipleship
 1. Son of Man – Jesus' favorite term for Himself (used some 80+ times)
 2. In His humiliation, Jesus had few possessions and no home of His own – Phil. 2:5-8
 3. Jesus was telling the scribe "It will cost you to follow Me"
 - a. Like the seed with no root – Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21
 - b. Discipleship requires self-denial, sacrifice, and suffering – Matt. 10:16-25; John 16:2; 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 11:35-38
 - c. Being a disciple is not adding Jesus to your life – it is renouncing your life to follow Him
- II. Following Eventually is Not Following at All – vs. 21-22
 - A. Another Disciple
 1. "Lord" – Matt. 7:21
 2. "Let me first go and bury my father"
 - a. A common figure of speech
 - b. This was not asking permission to go a literally put his father in the grave
 - 1) Burial had to be finished within 24 hours of death
 - 2) After the burial there was a mourning period of 30 days
 - c. This refers to a son's responsibility to help his father in the family business until his father dies and he received his inheritance – this could take decades
 - d. If you leave before your father dies, you receive a lesser inheritance
 3. See Peter, Andrew, James, and John – Matt. 4:18-22
 - a. They left it all – life, livelihood, father/family
 - b. They left immediately
 - B. "Let the Dead Bury Their Own Dead"
 1. Let the world take care of worldly things
 2. Remember, this was about delay in order to receive inheritance – following eventually
 3. Follow, professing your bankruptcy – Matt. 5:3
 4. Follow, even if it means mourning – Matt. 5:4
 5. Follow, knowing you will be hated, reviled, and persecuted – Matt. 5:10-12
 - C. "Go and Preach the Kingdom of God" – Luke 9:60
- III. Count the Cost and Follow Jesus – Matt. 10:34-39

Cross References

Luke 9:57-62

57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Mark 4:36

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

John 6:64-66

64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Matthew 13:5-6

5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

Matthew 13:20-21

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Matthew 10:16-25

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. 21 "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and

children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they call those of his household!

John 16:2

2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

2 Timothy 3:12

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Hebrews 11:35-38

35 ...Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

Matthew 7:21

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Matthew 4:18-22

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Matthew 5:3

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:4

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 9:60

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

Matthew 10:34-39

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

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