"What is Your Discipleship Costing You?"

Matthew 8:18-22 (*Part 2*)

You know: There was a time when truth mattered. (*from Erwin Lutzer's book: "Who Are You to Judge?*)

- Read some of the reformers…
- You wonder at the conflicts of John Knox, Martin Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and others…
- If they had been more friendly, mixed a little more love in their quest for truth.
- They believed and held fast the truth:
- That when you turn to Christ, you turn from sin.
- That Jesus was the only way - That there was only one gospel
- They also knew full well:
- That surface love never got anyone to heaven.
- Salvation by faith in Christ is truth and people must turn from sin to the Savior.

Paul was excited in 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10:

8 "For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place the news of your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything.
9 For they themselves report about us as to the kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
10 and to wait [look forward to with confidence] for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is, Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come."

- They believed and changed! And show that when you turn to Christ, you turn from sin!

Erwin Lutzer says:

- "My concern is that we now have a generation of 'comfortable Christians'
- A Christianity that demands very little and therefore has very little impact on our world.
- More and more we seem to be hearing that Christianity does not need to limit, truth doesn't matter, it's all love.
- Therefore, people are justifying every worldly deed, every worldly practice – all as long as 'I love Jesus'!"
- So, there is tolerance, very little preaching truth in our churches (something actually predicted by Paul). And they're filled with worldly believers or unbelievers.
- And I say, "Where is the cost of discipleship?"

See, we live in a world:

- Where there is no right and wrong
- You do what feels good as long as you're not hurting anyone.
- And Jesus can actually be popular, why He's all love!
- He teaches us all about love!

So, Salvation in Christ alone…the cost of discipleship –

- See that's not fair.
- Don't be negative, why are you so negative?
- You can believe strongly, just keep it to yourself.
- Don't you tell me that: I'm a sinner, I need to repent.

Remember Jesus said in John 15:18-21… He also said in Luke 14:25-33

Notice what Jesus tells these "Followers," and also gives us some practical advice for living our lives:

- What does Jesus, who is truth, teach us here about discipleship? AND
- We need to look at the cost of discipleship.

<u>You need to look at the *cost* of discipleship:</u> [*last week*: *1 & 2*]

I. The look of discipleship

II. The truth of discipleship

This week:

III. The delay of discipleship (vs.21-22)

A. "Another disciple"

B. His dilemma

C. Jesus's response - "let the world take care of the things of the world" or "let the spiritually dead take care of the physically dead"

He's not saying: people should not be concerned for their parents, but if that concern for parents becomes an excuse for not following Jesus, or for delay in following Jesus; then concern for parents (which is important) is too highly valued. [There must be balance.]

D. This disciple's problem

<u>Conclusion:</u>



- What is your discipleship costing you?
- Are we willing to live for Jesus, willing to serve – or are other things were more important?
- Are there things in your life that are more important than discipleship?
- You put things (stuff) ahead of God, ahead of discipleship, He will take them away.
- Let's be people of truth – live die for the truth. Be willing to pay the costs of discipleship
- Jesus said: You put your hand to the plow and look back you're not fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62)
- You'll waver, become a poor testimony, you'll falter and fail…
- Don't just say you'll follow God – Do it!