



## The Cost of Discipleship

### Description

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Discipleship is a profound commitment, requiring more than just a passive acknowledgment of faith. It demands a deep, often challenging, engagement with the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. In Luke 14:27, Jesus states, “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” This verse encapsulates the essence of discipleship, highlighting the sacrifices required to follow Him fully.

### Counting the Cost

#### The Call to Sacrifice

Discipleship calls for a willingness to sacrifice personal comfort and desires for the sake of the Gospel. As stated in Matthew 16:24, “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” This denial of self is central to true discipleship, requiring a shift in priorities and a readiness to face challenges and trials.

### Renouncing Materialism

Another aspect of discipleship involves renouncing material wealth and comfort. Jesus warns in Matthew 19:21, “Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” This call to give up earthly possessions for the sake of heavenly treasures illustrates the depth of commitment required.

## Embracing Persecution

Discipleship often involves enduring persecution and hardship. In John 15:20, Jesus reminds us, “Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” This verse underscores the reality that following Jesus may lead to suffering, but it is a suffering with eternal significance.

## The Reward of Discipleship

While the cost of discipleship is high, the rewards are immeasurable. In Mark 10:29-30, Jesus assures His followers, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.” The promise of eternal life and the abundant blessings that come with following Jesus are worth every sacrifice.

## Conclusion

The path of discipleship is marked by sacrifice, renunciation, and endurance. Yet, the promise of eternal life and the richness of a life lived in full devotion to Christ outweigh the challenges we face. Embracing the cost of discipleship is ultimately an act of profound faith and trust in God’s promises.

**Salvation Prayers** : Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today acknowledging my need for salvation. I confess that I have sinned and fallen short of your glory. But I believe that you died for my sins and rose again. I ask that you come into my heart and be my Lord. I commit to following you and living for you every day. Thank you for your love and for the gift of eternal life. In your name I pray, Amen. [Amen](#) If you prayed the above prayers kindly [click here](#) to get more information

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Example: Joy, Love, 1 John 1:3

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### Multiple Choice Questions

1. What does Jesus require from those who want to follow Him according to Luke 14:27?
  - A) Financial contribution
  - B) Public recognition
  - C) Bearing their own cross
  - D) Attendance at church
2. In Matthew 16:24, what is the first step to follow Jesus?
  - A) Join a ministry
  - B) Deny oneself
  - C) Donate to charity
  - D) Perform miracles
3. According to Matthew 19:21, what does Jesus suggest to attain perfection?
  - A) Travel to distant lands
  - B) Give up material possessions
  - C) Establish a new church
  - D) Memorize Scripture
4. What does John 15:20 indicate about the experience of discipleship?
  - A) It will be free of difficulties
  - B) It will involve public acclaim
  - C) It may include persecution
  - D) It will ensure wealth
5. What does Mark 10:29-30 promise to those who sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel?
  - A) A peaceful life without challenges
  - B) A hundredfold return and eternal life
  - C) Instant success and fame

## D) Immediate healing from illness

### Discussion Questions

1. How can we practically apply the principle of self-denial in our daily lives?
2. In what ways can the church support those who are facing persecution for their faith?
3. How does the promise of eternal life influence your perspective on the sacrifices you make for Christ?
4. What are some practical steps you can take to balance material needs with the call to generosity?
5. How can we encourage others to embrace the cost of discipleship?

### FAQs

1. What does it mean to “bear your own cross”?

Bearing your own cross means accepting and enduring the personal sacrifices and challenges that come with following Christ.

2. How can one find joy in the midst of discipleship’s difficulties?

Finding joy involves focusing on the eternal rewards and understanding that our present sufferings are temporary compared to the glory that will be revealed.

3. What is the significance of the hundredfold return mentioned in Mark 10:29-30?

The hundredfold return symbolizes the abundant blessings and spiritual riches that come from a life devoted to Christ, alongside the promise of eternal life.

4. How does one determine if they are truly following Jesus?

True following of Jesus is characterized by a life of obedience, sacrifice, and a growing relationship with Him, as well as a commitment to His teachings and mission.

5. Can discipleship be pursued alone, or is community important?

While personal commitment is essential, community support is crucial in discipleship for encouragement, accountability, and growth in faith.

### Multiple Choice Answers

1. C) Bearing their own cross
2. B) Deny oneself
3. B) Give up material possessions
4. C) It may include persecution
5. B) A hundredfold return and eternal life

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