

## COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Mt. 4:18-22

1. OFTEN WONDERED WHAT IT WAS THAT CAUSED PEOPLE TO FOLLOW ANOTHER
  1. Charisma; personality.
  2. Deception; false promises.
  3. (Why do some people go to church--others don't).
  
2. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT JESUS THAT MADE PEOPLE WANT TO FOLLOW HIM?
  1. Some followed him for loaves and fishes.
    1. For what they could get or benefit from.
    2. To satisfy the flesh.
    3. Teaching of cross will scatter.
      1. When do people turn back?
      2. When do you lose the crowds?
      3. Where were they when the chips were down--at the cross?
  2. There are those who follow wherever He leads.
    1. The call of the 12.
    2. There is a hunger for the things of God--even the deeper things of God.
    3. Where would we go Lord? You only have the words of life.
  
3. HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE FOLLOWING HIM?
  1. What do we manifest? What proof is there?

2. It's not the little petty, busy, busy things.
  1. It's not just whether you're faithful to the church or prayer meetings.
  2. It's not whether you please the pastor.
  3. These things often reflect an inner, underlying attitude.
3. What do we manifest? What proof is there?
  1. Do what He calls us to do.
  2. If you love me, feed my sheep.
  
4. THE ROAD TO FOLLOWING JESUS MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE EASIEST ROAD
  1. It is a straight and narrow way--"Straight is the gate and narrow (tribulation) is the way...that leads to life."
  2. Through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God.
  
5. WHAT COST/ WHAT SACRIFICE?
  1. "I'm not willing to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
  2. "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." (II Cor. 12:15).
  3. Greater love hath no man...than to give his life for a friend.
  4. Take up cross daily and follow Jesus.
  
6. PERHAPS PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING WORTH DYING FOR.
  1. Is thee not a cause in Israel?
  2. People are not looking for a watered-down, compromising, appeasing gospel.

3. The Word of God may be sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the stomach.
4. But it is the power of God unto salvation.