

## **Costly Discipleship** - Matthew 8:18-34

Word was spreading about Jesus, a man who taught with authority and was able to heal illness and disease. Crowds begin to form around him, his popularity growing and influence rising. Amidst this growing enthusiasm, Jesus decides to leave town. While traveling Jesus makes clear that following him is difficult. In Matthew 8:18-34, Jesus brings peace amidst the chaos in our world. Although it is costly, Jesus proves that he is worth following with all our life.

### **1. Following the Master (v. 18-22)**

Luke 18:29-30 - Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.

### **2. Power over Chaos (v. 23-27)**

1 Peter 5:7 - casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Psalms 89:8-9 - O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

### **3. Authority over Spiritual Forces (v. 28-34)**

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried” - GK Chesterton

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage, and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. When you think about following Jesus, what initially attracted you—and how has that changed over time?
2. The scribe was drawn to the “highlight reel” of Jesus. Where are you tempted to follow Jesus only when it’s exciting or beneficial?
3. How do you typically respond when following Jesus makes your life more difficult instead of easier?
4. Jesus calls us to put Him even above family. How do you practically balance loving your family while keeping Jesus first?
5. Why do you think Jesus uses such strong, even shocking language when calling people to follow Him?
6. How have you experienced God’s peace in the middle of a difficult situation before?
7. The disciples had skills but still needed Jesus. Where are you tempted to rely on your own ability instead of God?
8. The people in the region asked Jesus to leave after seeing His power. Why do you think people sometimes reject Jesus even after seeing what He can do?
9. How can we make prayer a first response tonight? What difficulties are happening in your life that we can stop and pray for right now?