



The Cost of Discipleship (Part Three)

Sunday, March 26 / 23 --- Matthew 10:32 – 42

Put no trust in a neighbour; have no confidence in a friend; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your arms... a man's enemies are the men of his own house. But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. – Micah 7:5 – 7

*So, everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth...a person's enemies will be those of his own household.
- Matthew 10:32ff*

Introduction:

In the Scripture today Jesus further addresses what it means to follow Him and to confess Him before others in this world --- What is the cost / reward of Discipleship? What is the price / privilege for living counter-culturally for God? What is the burden / blessing for being a cross-bearing Christian?

There are seven answers He gives of what it means.

1. Not being denied, but acknowledged by Christ before God the Father (vs. 32 – 33)
2. Sometimes not being at peace with the world, but being hated (vs. 22, 34)
3. Sometimes having family disown you and become your enemies (vs. 21, 35 – 36)
4. Counting all human loves as worth less than your love for Jesus (vs. 37)
5. Taking up your cross and dying to self in order to follow after Jesus (vs. 38)
6. Not finding your life in this world but losing it for the cause of Christ (vs. 39)
7. Having God's provision shown to you in the people who receive you (vs. 40 – 42)



Discussion Questions:

If I asked you to make a mental list of the people that you would be willing to lay down your life for, there would probably be several, am I correct? Of course, we will not likely be required to do so. But Jesus DOES ask us to lay down our lives for His sake and for the sake of others (vs. 38 – 39). Jesus may not be asking you to die (physically) for His cause, but He IS asking you to live for His cause.

Consider the following questions:

- Do you think it is harder to die for Jesus, or to live for Jesus? Explain and discuss.
- Why is it easier to focus on the cost of discipleship rather than reward, or the price rather than the privilege, or the burden rather than the blessing?
- What is the most that you have had to endure for the cause of Christ? Share your story.
- How should we pray for ourselves and the church in Canada at this time in our history?

Application:

- *Perhaps you have some family members or friends that you are in conflict with because of your faith in Jesus. Pray for them this week. Ask God what He would have you do to show His love to them, in spite of being rejected or even hated.*