



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 4
The Cost of Following Jesus

Day 1

Scripture

“Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”
— Mark 10:21

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” — Mark 10:29-31

Prayer:

Jesus, You are better than anything in this world. All the good things in this world are good because You are in them. Thank You for pointing out the things in my heart that would get in the way of following You. Help me to trust in Your goodness and see Your value. Amen.

Reflection

There is a cost to following Jesus. Everyone gives up something. For the man in Mark 10:21, Jesus was asking him to give up his earthly wealth. He doesn't ask this of everyone He meets, but for this man, it was the requirement. Over the years, many people have commented that this man's wealth was likely an idol in his heart. Jesus saw this and wanted to rid him of it so his heart could fully belong to God. Notice that Jesus doesn't say, “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will be left with nothing.” He says, “and you will have treasure in heaven.” It's an exchange, and it's a great deal!

When the disciples hear Jesus say these things to the man, questions start to form in their minds. Often in the Old Testament, wealth is considered to be a sign of God's blessing. So, they may have been thinking, “If this wealthy person has such trouble being saved, what's the hope for the rest of us?” Then Jesus says that with God, all things are possible. Another question comes to Peter's mind: “We did leave everything behind to follow you. What about us?” To that question, Jesus gives the answer above in verses 29-31. Here again, it's an exchange—and a great one!

The question is, do you have enough faith to take Jesus at His word? He is asking you to follow Him, and you don't know what it might cost you. Do you believe that what He has is better than what you'll have to give up? The more that you taste and see that the Lord is good, the more you'll trust that it's worth it. The more you taste the true bread that comes down from heaven, the less you'll want the stale old bread of the world. Seek God and know Him better. The more you do, the more you'll see the value in what He is offering.

Questions

Is God calling you to give up anything in particular in order to follow Him?

What would you hesitate to give up in order to follow Jesus?

Do you believe that following Jesus is worth whatever it may cost you?