



Being with Jesus: Discipleship in the Book of Mark

Week 4: The Cost of Following Jesus

Mark 10:17-31

Have you ever really wanted something?
Did you work hard and sacrifice to get the thing you wanted?

The more valuable a thing is to us, the more we are willing to give up to get it. The Gospel of Mark teaches that the Kingdom of God is the most valuable thing that exists.

Costly Grace

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*. Speaking about costly grace, Bonhoeffer writes, “**Such** grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it cost a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true **life**.”

The better we know Jesus, the more we see His value. We do give up things to be with Him, but being with Him is better than those things.

Jesus gave up heaven to come get us. It has been said that whatever we have to give up to be with Jesus, is nothing compared to what He had to give up to be with us. If He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for us, we should be willing to sacrifice for Him.

Is the cost too high for you? What things stand in the way of you following Jesus?

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

While following Jesus costs everyone something, it is not a cost Jesus makes in anger or manipulation, but in love. How might detaching oneself from material possessions be in our best interest?

- Following Jesus is an exchange. We give up certain things, and that may be hard, but we gain better things in the end. Choose the better things.

