



The Cost of Discipleship

Adapted from “Surge” series by Rusty Posey

In order to surge spiritually one must accept the challenge to go to the next level with Christ. When Jesus walked the earth, He never had a problem gathering large crowds. However, the large crowds did not translate into true discipleship.

When the crowd was hanging around Jesus checking things out, Jesus threw down the gauntlet. He began to explain to the crowds of people how they could surge to the next level in their relationship with the Father. When Jesus said, “Come, follow me,” it was and still is an invitation to surge to another dimension with Him. Mark Batterson describes it this way:

Inherent within that invitation was an understanding that it meant total surrender, complete devotion. It meant taking that rabbi’s yoke on yourself. The yoke represented the sum total of the rabbi’s philosophy and practice. It meant spending every waking moment with him. It meant going wherever he went, doing whatever he did, listening to everything he said. The complete devotion of discipleship is sometimes described as being “covered in the dust of your rabbi.” It was an allusion to the fact that disciples followed their rabbi so closely that the dust the rabbi kicked up with his heels would literally cover the disciples who followed him.¹

¹ Mark Batterson, *Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge* Kindle Edition, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012) 1751-1756.

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COURAGE

C1: When you hear the word **disciple** or **discipleship**, what comes to mind?

C2: Describe your discipleship journey. Make sure you include the times when your journey has gone well and the times you have struggled on your journey.

C3: Read and answer the following.

Luke 14:25–33 (ESV) Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

- From these verses, what are three things Jesus says have to happen if you are going to be a disciple of Jesus?

- What do these three things mean to you today?

STRENGTH

S1: Read and answer the following.

Luke 14:25-26 (ESV)

- What was the challenge Jesus issued?
- Spend seven days in prayer asking God to show you the next level you need to take with Him. Write down what you are sensing. What will you do to move towards the next level of prayer, devotion, and giving.

S2: Describe the difference between a man who **talks** about Jesus and a man who is **walking** with Jesus. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being less talking about Jesus and 4 being more talking with Jesus, rate your discipleship life. Write out a plan to improve.

S3: Our love for Jesus and loyalty to Him should be greater than any other attachment, including our own families. Read and answer the following.

Luke 14:26 (ESV)

- What do you think Jesus means when he says we have to **hate**?

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)

- What can you glean from this scripture about discipleship?
- Do you live your life in such a manner that God would call it **worthy**? Why or why not?

ENDURANCE

E1: Read and answer the following.

Luke 9:23-25 (ESV)

- What do you glean from these verses about discipleship?
- What does “dying to yourself” mean?
- Look at the note in the FireBible about this verse. What are your thoughts about this commentary?

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

- How does this verse relate to the verses in **Luke 9:23-25 (ESV)**.

E2: Read and answer the following.

Luke 14:28-33 (ESV)

- From these verses, what do you glean about discipleship?
- What do you think it means to “count the cost”?

- Spend thirty days in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you some things you need to give up. Write those things down. What is your process to begin to give up the things that the Holy Spirit revealed to you?

E3: Read and answer the following.

Philippians 3:7-11 (ESV)

Psalms 139:23-24 (ESV)

- What do you glean from these verses about discipleship?

- What is God asking you to do in order to go to the next level with Him?

E4: In the next thirty days find three men with which you can discuss this lesson. What did you glean from your discussions?