

The Cost of WWJD

By Randy Henson

Life Church is amazing

Luke 9:57-62

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head." He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God." Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

Jesus is radically different in His approach

He seems to spend most of His time trying to talk men out of following after Him

Jesus' desire is that people WILL follow Him - but He wants them to think it through first, to count the cost involved

So that once they DO follow Him they'll never turn back

What is the cost of WWJD?

The follower of Jesus has no earthly security

Luke 9

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

"I will follow you WHEREVER you go!"

Maybe you need a little more information first, and then if you're still willing to follow you will go "wherever"

This disciple said more than he meant, but not more than following Jesus requires

When Jesus stepped out of His throne in glory to come to the earth and live and die for us, He left behind all that He had

"Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head"

doesn't even have a place to call "home"

He has no earthly security

And those who follow Him must be prepared for the same road...no earthly security

If you're going to follow Jesus it may cost you everything!

So count the cost!

Matthew 16:25

...Whoever loses his life for my sake, will find it.

The follower of Jesus has no earthly ties

Luke 9

He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

This seem like a reasonable request

"Let the dead bury their own dead: I've called you to preach for me."

Following Jesus means that He MUST be first before anything and anyone

This is one of those hard things that causes people to go out the backdoor

Matthew 10:37

"If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine."

He's not calling for us to dishonor parents, or to ignore our responsibility to family

But if we are pressed into a choice between Him and anything else, He comes first

People like to use family as a crutch, something that hinders them from ministry

Working hard to "get rich" is unacceptable, but working hard "to provide for your family"

Self-indulgence is unacceptable, but if I give my family a "much needed vacation" or I buy a "place on the lake" or a "condo in Colorado" so that I can spend "quality time with my family" I am a Christian hero

The family is a wonderful God created institution, vital to anyone's ministry

We are to provide for our families

We are living in a culture that is destructive to the family

It is because the family is under attack in our culture that we have sometimes overreacted, making the family the number one priority

Our number one priority has to be Jesus

The follower of Jesus has no earthly distractions

Luke 9

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

"You've already declared you are ready to follow me - you've picked up the plow - if you put it down now because of your desire for your family back home, you're not fit for the Kingdom of God!"

"Don't look back!"

When Peter, James and John followed Jesus, they literally dropped their fishing nets to go after Him

Luke 14:28-30

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

I believe that this is the cause of why the church in America looks like it does

Thousands of people still ignore Christ's warning and decide to follow Him without first pausing to reflect on the cost

What's He saying to YOU?