



Worship Guide for *September 16, 2018*

Sermon Notes

The Steep Cost of Following Christ

Matthew 8:18-22 / Luke 9:57-62 (pew Bible pgs. 813 & 868)

Two things set Jesus apart from any other religious leader – His words and His deeds. In our recent study in the Sermon on the Mount, we heard the teaching of Jesus. The crowds were amazed at the authority in His words (Matt 7:28-29). Immediately following that, in chapters eight and nine, Matthew records for us a number of Jesus' miracles. Something was needed to back up the authority and power of His words. What we see and hear in chapters eight, nine, and ten of Matthew do just that.

There are places in the Gospels where we see Jesus issue enormously broad invitations, such as Matthew 11:28-30: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

But as contrary as this might sound in the easy-believing culture of today's church, Jesus is not begging for followers. He wants people to know that thoughtless, spontaneous responses will not cut it. Today Matthew (and Luke) shows us an encounter between Jesus and would-be disciples. When a person says to Him, “Yes Lord, I will follow You”, Jesus' response might surprise us: “Are you sure? Do you know what you're getting yourself into? Do you realize what this is going to mean for you?”

These conversations might seem out of place with the miracles of Jesus. But Matthew wants us to understand that not only does Jesus have authority over disease, He also has authority over disciples. David Platt wrote, *“Jesus possesses absolute authority in the world and warrants absolute allegiance from the world.”* In today's passages, we see people who say they want to follow Christ. But Jesus makes it clear to them, and us, that allegiance to Him is not cheap. There is a steep cost to following Christ.

Following Jesus could cost you your comforts. (Matt 8:18-20)

Are you willing to follow Him even if it means not knowing where you are going?

Following Jesus will change your earthly commitments. (Matt 8:21-22)

Are you willing to follow Him even if it requires your undivided affections?

Following Jesus will never be easy. (Lk 9:61-62)

Are you willing to follow Him even if it means leaving everything else behind?

Life Group Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How does this week's passage clarify the gospel in a context that contains many false versions?

What areas of your own life does this week's passage challenge? Any areas that lack the allegiance we see here?

How should a passage like this one shape our evangelistic efforts & the way we share the gospel?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

Westwood Staff

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Upcoming Events

September 19 - Church Conference

September 21 - Person vs. Morehead

September 23 - Community Fun Day

September 24 - Truth or College

September 27 - Senior Money Matters (NRBC)

September 28 - Person @ E. Alamance

October 5 & 6 - Mom 2 Mom Fall Sale

October 6 - Men's Breakfast