**The Quiet Hour #7**

The Cost of Discipleship

**Luke 9:23**

 The setting is exceptional. Beneath a moonlit sky, a group of Christian young people are seated on benches around a roaring campfire. The week of camp is nearing an end and individuals are sharing their testimonies of God at work in their lives. The evening is about to end when someone begins to sing and the group joins in: ***“I have decided to follow Jesus…the world behind me, the cross before me…though no one join me still I will follow”***. Each verse ends with the same phrase: ***“No turning back, no turning back”***. As each person steps away from the orange glow of the campfire, they are forced to consider a choice: will following Jesus simply be a song to sing, or will following Jesus be a life to live? The answer depends upon a willingness to count the cost and to pay the price.

* Pause for a moment to ask the Lord to speak to you, and then take your Bible and read Luke 9:18-27.

 1. According to verse 18, where was Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 2. What was Jesus doing? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 3. Who was Jesus with? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 4. How would you describe the privilege these men had of being called

 *“a disciple?”* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 5. Would you like to have been one of the 12 disciples of Jesus?

 Why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1**

**An ILLUSTRATION – When It’s Easy to Follow Jesus**

 It is essential that we look back at the earlier verses of Luke 9 to identify the first time that *“following Jesus”* is mentioned. Jesus took the apostles, *“and went aside privately into a desert place”* (v.10). According to verse 11 it was there that the people *“followed Him”.* Why? Three reasons are stated.

 1. The need of their **hearing** – *“…and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto them of the*

 *kingdom of God…”* (v. 11)

 2. The need of their **healing** – *“…and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them that had need*

 *of healing.”* (v. 11)

 3. The need of their **hunger** – *“And they did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and were all*

 *filled…”* (v. 17)

**Questions**

* Did the people follow Jesus because of what they would get or what they could give?
* Was following Jesus based upon what it would provide for them or what it would cost from them?
* When the people followed Jesus were they thinking more about satisfaction or suffering?

Carefully read this quote from Martin Luther:

“A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing,

and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.”

 Note the words “gives…costs…suffers” and then go back and reread the questions above. Though hearing, healing, and hunger represented legitimate needs, it still was relatively easy to follow Jesus because the price tag was minimal at best. Following Jesus met their needs but required little of the followers.

* Take the next several moments and have a conversation with God about the price you have paid to follow Jesus.

**2**

**An Example – The Life and Death of Jesus**

 In this passage, Jesus is uniquely presented as both *“the Christ of God”* (v. 20) and *“the Son of man”* (v. 22). As He spoke, Jesus presented the disciples with a graphic look, not just at His person, but His ultimate purpose in coming which is emphasized by the word *“must” in verse 22.* Write down the three things that Jesus would experience before His glorious resurrection.

 1. **Torture** – *“…(must) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ many things…”*

 2. **Excommunication** – *“…(must) be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the elders and*

 *chief priests and scribes…”*

 3. **Martyrdom** – *“…(must)be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

 Note the apparent harshness of these words and the specific descriptions of what Jesus would experience. Needless to say, Jesus did not come *“to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life…”* (Mark 10:45). From your own recollection, make a list of some of the specific details of what Jesus endured as mentioned in this verse.

 1.

 2.

 3.

 4.

 5.

 6.

 7.

 8.

 9.

 10.

* Take some time to offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for the sacrificial giving of Himself. Use your list above and be as specific as you can.

**3**

**A CHALLENGE – The Price Tag of Following Jesus**

That which is of the greatest value, will come at the greatest cost. Jesus personalized this truth in verse 23 by stating to His disciples that there were three things that must become the passion of those who would truly follow (*“come after”*) Him. Each one requires a deep level of devotion and dedication and cannot be handled casually or carelessly.

 1. **A Passion to Live a Selfless Life** – *“…let him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...”*

 2. **A Passion to Live a Sacrificial Life** – *“…(let him) take up his*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_...”*

 3. **A Passion to Live a Surrendered Life** – *“…(let him) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 *me…”*

 Take a moment to see each of these lifestyles portrayed in a direct quote from Jesus Himself.

* John 8:29 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* John 10:17,18 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* John 6:38 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What word appears in Luke 9:23 that does not appear in the two parallel passages (Matt. 16:24, Mark 8:34)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why is this word significant? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* In a humble spirit of prayer, talk to God about the areas of your life that need to be significantly changed as you seek to follow Jesus totally. Pray through the three statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

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