

The Cost of Following Jesus

Jesus: “To join My movement, here are the requirements: topple yourself from your pedestal of pride; carry your cross, fully prepared to die for Me; and keep in step with Me. Let’s go!” Mark 8:34

When people say they are followers of Jesus, what do they it mean?
What does discipleship cost? Check the items that seem correct.

- Praying “God, forgive me,” while intending to disobey again.
- Attending church as a not-much-fun-but-gotta-do-it chore.
- Joining a church so it will meet my needs, like a “Club God”.
- Seeing the needs of others and taking risks to help them.
- Saying the name “Jesus” aloud when people need His love.
- Speaking His Good News even when some might disagree.
- Going wherever Jesus leads and doing what He asks of me.

Why follow Jesus? Because He followed and obeyed His Father:

- As God’s only Son in heaven — before our world was created.
- As the promised Messiah — sent to earth as both God and man.
- Saying what the Father gave Him — words of warning & mercy.
- Doing what the Father showed Him — kind acts & miracles.
- Enduring the Cross — laying down His life for us.
- Rising from the dead — acclaiming victory over sin and death.
- Pouring out the Holy Spirit — who empowers us to follow Jesus.

When you add it all up — what He gave and what He requires of us — total allegiance to Jesus Christ makes perfect sense.

Prayer: Jesus, I gladly join Your movement. Trusting in You, I pull down my idols of selfish pride. Teach me to carry my cross, dying each day to whatever would prevent me from following You. Hold my hand — Let’s go! Yes, this is really living!