



“The Cost”

Sermon Notes and Takehome

March 27th, 2011

“The difficulty in life is the choice.” –George Moore

“If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth; only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair.” –C.S. Lewis

“Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has.” --Billy Graham

“Liberty is the right to choose. Freedom is the result of the right choice.”
–Unknown

“There are always two choices. Two paths to take. One is easy. And its only reward is that it's easy.” --Unknown

Scripture: 2 Samuel 24

Our choices have _____ for others.

Following Jesus will always _____ us something.

- When we _____ one path, we _____ other paths.

The three questions:

1. Do I _____ Jesus?
2. Do I _____ Jesus?
3. Will I _____ Jesus?

Questions for Reflection and Application:

In the sermon this week, Pastor Kory said there are three key questions to ask when counting the cost of following Jesus.

Do I know Jesus?

Sometimes we assume we know the real Jesus, but often the Jesus we have heard about is a cultural version of Jesus (which is difficult to avoid). That's why it's important to always be learning more and more about Jesus and His teachings—entering each time with an openness to learn something new about Jesus and to sift through what the Bible actually says and the cultural trappings.

Do I believe Jesus?

“Belief” in Jesus, first of all means that I believe that whatever Jesus says is truth. I don't pick and choose what I like and what I don't like, what I agree with or don't agree with. When I believe Jesus, I submit my own worldview to Jesus' worldview and am convinced that what Jesus said is right.

Will I obey Jesus?

In Matthew 7, Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish builders. We often think the difference between the wise and foolish builders is that the wise man builds his foundation on Jesus and the other builds his foundation on something else. However, both of them are seeking Jesus and hear the words of Jesus, but the one who builds his house on the rock is the one who “hears Jesus' Word and *does* what He says.” The foolish builder is the one who hears Jesus' Word and doesn't do what He says.” The second part of belief is obedience.

With these three things in mind, study the following words of Jesus and ask yourself the three questions. The real test is: are you willing to follow through on a faith that costs you something? If so, don't just think about these passages and move on. Ponder them and ask God what you need to change to follow Him, what will it cost you? What will you do or change?

Don't do all of them at once, but take some time (a day or two) with each and practice obedience:

1. Matthew 5:21-26
2. Matthew 5:43-48
3. Matthew 6:25-34
4. Colossians 3:12-17
5. James 3:1-12