



Sunday 13th October 2024

Following Jesus by counting the cost & receiving reward – Luke 14:25-35, Matthew 19:16-30

1. The challenge to our priorities

2. The consideration in our decision

3. The cost compared with the reward!

Questions for our midweek Growth Groups and personal reflection

Read Luke 14:25-35 and Matthew 19:16-30.

1. The challenge to our priorities

Jesus' words in Luke 14:26 sound shocking. Why might he have used such language in addressing the crowds?

What is God's purpose for marriage and family?

How did Jesus get to the heart of what the man in Matthew 19 loved most?

How can you tell the difference between simply enjoying good gifts from God and making idols of them?

With these things in mind, what did Jesus mean in saying, "whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

2. The consideration in our decision

Have you ever done something without thinking through what it involved?

How do Jesus' two illustrations in Luke 14:28-32 help us to consider the decision to follow him?

Read Luke 14:33. What have you already given up to follow Jesus? What would you now find hardest to give up for Jesus if he asked you to?

3. The cost compared with the reward!

In Matthew 19, what did Jesus need to correct about the disciples' misunderstanding in v.25-26?

Then, in v.27-30, how did Jesus answer the question of whether it is worth the cost of giving up everything to follow him?

How long might you live on earth? What will last at the end of this life?

How long will you be in the next life? What will it consist of?

How does this help us weigh up the cost and reward in following Jesus?