



"The Cost"

Pastor Cathy Burkholder

March 19 & 20, 2016

During his time on earth, Jesus invited misbehavers and unbelievers to follow him. We are all invited to follow him. You are invited to follow him, but there's something you need to know about following Jesus. It will cost you something eventually.

Warm It Up:

What are some of the costs of following Jesus?

Following Jesus will cost you something—it may be a friendship, a change in lifestyle, or a shift in career goals. Has your own faith ever cost you something?

Talk It Over:

1. **Read John 12:12-16.** What do you think the people were expecting from Jesus? What about the disciples?
2. Jesus had already predicted his death three different times, explaining to his disciples what was going to happen, yet on that first Palm Sunday, they still did not understand. What do you think was preventing them from understanding?
3. Jesus was already beginning to bear the burdens of the people as he wept over the city just before he made his final descent into Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). What was causing Jesus so much grief? What are some of the things that break God's heart today?

4. Jesus wants followers not just consumers. What do you think is the difference? What does a follower of Jesus look like today versus a consumer?
5. **Read Luke 9:23.** What comes to mind for you when you think of a cross? What does it mean to you to: (a) deny yourself, (b) take up your cross daily, (c) follow Christ, and (d) lose your life?
6. When was the last time that you “stepped out of your comfort zone” to follow Christ? Share an example.
7. **Read Matthew 26:31-35.** Like Peter, have you ever found yourself in a situation where you tried to hide or deny your faith? How did it make you feel, and how would you respond differently today?
8. Jesus shows us there’s only one path to greatness: to be a servant (Mark 10:44). How does servanthood lead to greatness? In what ways does Jesus model this for his disciples?
9. How would your life be different (at home, school, workplace, friendships) if you were more of a servant?
10. **Read Zec. 9:9.** Why do you think Jesus used a donkey to ride into Jerusalem and not a white stallion? What does this tell you about Jesus?
11. On Palm Sunday, Jesus is at the pinnacle of his popularity. What were some of the reasons Jesus went from “hero to zero” in just five days? Why was Jesus such a disappointment to people?
12. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who was hostile to the Christian faith? How did you respond? How does Jesus respond to those treating him with hostility?

Pray It Out:

Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are weary and overburdened and I’ll carry your load. I will give you rest.” Are there any “loads” you are carrying right now?

Pray for each other after everyone shares their requests.