

This weekend, we continued our series, *Disciple: The Short Stories of Jesus*, and explored four different parables that highlight both the *cost* and the *reward* of discipleship. We will continue to focus on both in this week's Life Group study.

PAUSE

Before you get started, reflect on this quote from *Renewing the Christian Mind* by Dallas Willard. Pray for the Spirit to open your eyes to see a truly magnificent Jesus.

We could start with a disciple having great admiration and love for Jesus—in fact, so much so that it would be appropriate to believe that Jesus is the most magnificent person who has ever lived. This would lead to becoming quite sure that to belong to him, to be taken into what he is doing throughout this world so that it becomes your life, is the greatest opportunity one will ever have.

READ

This week, we are reading **pages 268-274** in *Renewing the Christian Mind* by Dallas Willard. To access the reading, you can scan the QR code below, download a PDF of these pages available on our website at **rocky-peak.org/disciple-the-short-stories-of-jesus**, or pick up a hard copy at Starting Point on the Worship Center Patio during weekend services.



STUDY

1. What were one or two key insights that you gained from the weekend message and/or the Dallas Willard reading?
2. Read the first two parables from the weekend message in **Luke 14:25-33**, which focus on the cost of being a disciple. Jot down anything that stands out as meaningful to you.
 - a. Jesus uses strong language to convey that being His disciple requires us to love Him as our *top priority* over our love for anyone else. How would you explain what it means to love Him above all others, and why that is essential for discipleship?
3. The first principle from the message was *The Kingdom ... Costs Everything*. Jesus repeats this truth throughout the Gospel accounts. **Read Matthew 10:37-39, 16:24-26, and Mark 8:34-35.**
 - a. Have you ever paused to consider the cost of following Jesus? Why or why not?
 - b. What have been some of the costs you've faced as a disciple?
 - c. What would you say is the cost you pay for *not* following Jesus, even in part?
4. Consider some specific areas in your life, such as family, relationships, job, school, time, priorities, goals, emotions, hurts, finances, etc. What has it, or could it look like, for you to give Jesus *everything* in these areas?
 - a. Which area do you currently find to be the hardest to give fully over to Jesus? Why?
5. Read the next set of parables in **Matthew 13:44-46**, which focus on the reward of being a disciple. Jot down anything that stands out as meaningful to you.
 - a. Both parables share a theme of *joy* at paying the cost to receive the reward. On **page 269**, Dallas Willard writes,

No one enters reluctantly or sadly into a discipleship relationship with Jesus. ... No one goes in bemoaning the cost. They understand the immensity of the opportunity. And one of the things that has most obstructed the path of discipleship in our Christian culture today is this idea that it will be a terribly difficult thing that will certainly ruin your life.

What is your reaction to Willard's statement?

b. In your walk with Christ, what has helped you understand the "immensity of the opportunity" of being a disciple?

6. The second principle from the weekend message was *The Kingdom ... Is Worth Everything*. Read **Mark 10:28-31**.

a. What kind of "reward" do Jesus' disciples receive for following Him?

7. Reflect on a time in which you experienced a *genuine* joy from Jesus, even though you were "paying a price" for following Him.

a. What were some of the key circumstances, people, and emotions you experienced in that situation?

b. How does remembering that time help keep you focused and motivated as you follow Jesus today?

RESPOND

Michael ended the message by asking us two key questions. They are provided here for you to answer, but before you do, take a few moments to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and help you see both what is true about your life and what the Spirit is inviting you into.

1. *What ... Is The Kingdom Worth To You?*

2. *Who ... Has Your Ultimate Allegiance?*