

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## Full Spectrum Discipleship #4

Watch the video summary of the **March 8, 2015 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Cost of Discipleship."

Please read the sermon passage (Matthew 8:18-34) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST IS MEASURED BY . . .

1. **Our Personal Priorities** (18-22)
  - a. THE SCRIBE: The danger of responding impulsively (18-20)
  - b. THE "DISCIPLE": The danger of responding conditionally (21-22)
2. **Our Physical Challenges** (23-27)
  - a. Discipleship entails following Christ no matter what he permits (23-25)
    - i. He led his disciples straight into the storm, testing them in their area of great strength
    - ii. He taught them to trust him--even in the area of their greatest strength
  - b. Discipleship entails following Christ in the testing of our faith (26-27)
    - i. We begin to fear and control when we take our eyes off Jesus and believe he is disengaged.
    - ii. We learn to trust as we rouse him, cry out to him and wait for him to act.
    - iii. Great calms almost always come only after great storms.
3. **Our Spiritual Confrontations** (28-34)
  - a. Understand the supernatural component involved (28-32)
  - b. Understand the financial component involved (33-34)

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The scribe (v. 19) made an impulsive statement about his intent to follow Jesus. Are you following Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit as closely as you intended? In what way is it impossible for you to be completely at home in this world? (Note Jesus' "Foxes have holes" response.)
2. Based on #1, above: The disciple (v. 21) made a conditional statement about his intent to follow Jesus. Are you placing any "noble sounding" conditions on your followership of Jesus? What noble sounding excuses do people give for not following Jesus *yet*? How can we graciously confront those conditions?
3. Based on #2, above: God sometimes leads disciples into storms (in the area of their strengths) in order to teach them to trust and cry out to him. How have you learned to cry out to Jesus for help, even in the area of your greatest strength? What storm has Jesus led you into?
4. Based on #2, above: Jesus asked the disciples in the storm "Why are you afraid?" (v. 26) before he calmed the storm. How is it possible to NOT be afraid in a storm, even before Jesus does something?
5. Based on #3, above: Jesus has complete authority over evil spirits, but will use their resistance to bring this world to a final battle. Discuss Jesus' authority over all things. Can you have a "great calm" even while there seems to be "great storm" in the world? How?