

# DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

## 4: CONSECRATION – Jesus looked for obedience



### Small group notes:

- Within your group, perhaps share about someone you know or someone you have read about whose life was impactful as a radical disciple. What really challenged you about their life and testimony that has remained with you?

The theme this week is **CONSECRATION**. Our study looks at the cost of being a disciple of Jesus. The life of discipleship is always going to be cruciform, cross shaped. Dare to be a disciple is a call to authentic discipleship that involves a submission to the authority of Jesus.

### 1. CONSECRATION – The road of obedience

Jesus clearly walked the road of obedience to the will and purposes of the Heavenly Father. Hebrews 10.7; John 17.4, John 4.34, John 6.38.

- Look at a couple of the verses and see how clearly the spirit of obedience is expressed. Jesus challenged his followers in the Sermon on the Mount.
  - What do you think Jesus is saying when in Matthew 7.21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

### 2. CONSECRATION – The cost of obedience

In **Luke 14.25** we have large crowds following Jesus.

- In the midst of Jesus' popularity, why do you think he deliberately thins out his following by trying to put people off?
- Reflect on the Rich Young Ruler who approached Jesus (Mark 10.17-31). Why does it appear that Jesus pours cold water on the enthusiasm of some who want to follow him? Surely this man would be ideal to be part of Jesus' team.

### A disciple and their priorities v.26

- What are the challenges here for us in the face of our responsibilities to our family? How would you paraphrase Jesus's words in this verse?

**A disciple and their plans v.27** The cross was a familiar image of death in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century but how do we apply Jesus' words today?

- Do we take our personal plans to the Lord and seek his direction and approval? All too often we can make our decisions and then seek God's blessing. Maybe someone can share how they made their plans and then were surprised when God changed them as they placed those plans on the altar of sacrifice in prayerful commitment.

**A disciple and their possessions v.33.** Again, how do we apply Jesus' words to our own world of bank accounts, mortgages, jobs, homes etc.

- Do we have a tendency to water down Jesus' challenge in these verses?
- What would you say to those who indicate to you that the cost of discipleship is too difficult and they give up following Jesus?

### 3. CONSECRATION – The pictures of obedience

There is a need to weigh up the cost before following:

- Man constructing a building
- King going into a battle
- Salt losing its flavour

- **What lessons are being taught in these pictures?**